

# GUIDE TO AGRICULTURAL OPEN AIR BURNING

Keep it safe and know the rules for burning things  
outside a container.

## TERMS TO KNOW



### OPEN AIR BURNING

The burning of any matter in such a manner that the products resulting from combustion are emitted directly into the atmosphere without passing through a stack, duct, or chimney.

### LAND CLEARING

Modification of land for development and road construction, not associated with agricultural operations or normal property maintenance.

### PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Disposal of leaves, tree, yard, and garden trimmings originating from the private property that the open air burn will take place.

### YARD WASTE

Debris from maintaining your yard. This could include lawn trimmings, leaves, or brush. It is *not* yard waste if it's debris from getting your land ready to develop something like a building or roadway.

### DEBRIS WASTE

Waste resulting from land clearing and developing. Debris waste includes but is not limited to stumps, wood, brush, soil, and road spoils.

### HOUSEHOLD WASTE

Any waste material, including garbage, trash, and refuse from households.



## DO YOU NEED A PERMIT?

- In the absence of other means of disposal, open air burning may be used for the following agricultural land clearing practices without a permit. **Other land clearing open air burns must get a permit.**
  - Destroy undesirable or diseased vegetation.
  - Clear orchards and orchard prunings.
  - Destroy empty fertilizer and chemical containers.
  - Denature seed and grain that may no longer be suitable for agricultural purposes.
  - Prevent loss from frost or freeze damage.
  - Create a favorable habitat for certain species.
  - Destroy strings and plastic ground cover remaining in the field after being used in growing staked tomatoes.
- Still unsure? Give us a call, we'll discuss your plans and make sure you have all the info you need.

For the entire text of the open air burning laws,  
visit [ACFireRescue.org](http://ACFireRescue.org) or call 434-296-5833.



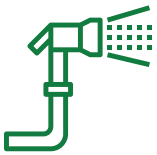
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## THE RULES FOR STARTING AN OUTDOOR FIRE

### ALBEMARLE COUNTY OPEN AIR BURNING CODE'S INTENT

The County of Albemarle, in an effort to achieve and maintain such levels of air quality as to protect human health, welfare, and the safety of its residents, has regulated open air burning within the County.



#### **It's illegal to start an outdoor fire without planning on how to prevent it from spreading.**

Always have on hand at least one of these:

- A hose
- Bucket of water
- Shovel with dirt or sand
- Heavy equipment for moving earth

#### **Don't leave the fire alone.**

Do not leave children or pets alone with open flames



#### **Keep a safe clearance around fire at all times.**

Start your fire at least:

- 1000 feet from structures
- 50 feet from combustibles

#### **Don't burn household waste.**

It's never ok to burn trash.



#### **Anytime you strike a fire, call the Emergency Communications Center at 434-977-9041.**

By providing information to the ECC, you provide vital information to first responders and the entire emergency network.

#### **Don't add fuel to the flames.**

Don't add gasoline, lighter fluid, diesel or the like to your fire.



***FIRE RESCUE***  
**ALBEMARLE COUNTY**

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