



CAMPBELL COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

Open Burning Regulations in Campbell County

What is Open Burning?

Open Burning is the burning of unwanted materials, such as paper, trees, brush, leaves, grass, and other debris, where smoke and other emissions are released directly into the air. During open burning air pollutants do not pass through a chimney or stack, and/or combustion of the solid waste is inadequately controlled.

Open burning pollutes the air and poses a forest fire hazard. The air pollution created by open burning can irritate eyes and lungs, obscure visibility, and create annoying odors or pose other nuisance or health threats.

Because of the problems created by this activity, state and local laws prohibit open burning of many materials. Many people are unaware of the regulations or unsure about which regulations apply to them. The following information will help identify the problems, regulations, sources of information, and alternatives to open burning.

For more information please refer to the Code of Campbell County, Section 10-41, or contact the Campbell County Fire Marshal's Office at 434-332-9540

Prohibited Items to Burn

The following items are prohibited from open burning in Campbell:

- Tires
- Used Oil
- Coated/Insulated Wires
- Asphaltic Materials
- Roofing Shingles
- Hazardous Wastes & Waste Containers
- Animal Carcasses
- Animal Waste
- Petroleum Based Materials
- Garbage (readily discarded materials composed of animal or vegetable matter)
- Impregnated or treated wood
- Batteries

Burn Permits

No permits are required by homeowners for the open burning of tree and yard wastes. However, to alleviate the unnecessary response of fire unit's homeowners and others conducting open burning are asked to notify the Campbell County Communications Center (434-332-9574) when burning as noted below.

Burning Timeframe: Fires should be started or tendered between hours of 8am and 12am; except as noted in section 10-41

Burning of Land Clearing Debris (Major Burning – Typically Construction or Commercial in Nature)

Open burning is permitted on-site for debris waste resulting from property maintenance, from the development or modification of roads and highways, parking areas, railroad tracks, pipelines, power and communication lines, buildings or building areas, sanitary landfills, or from any other approved clearing operations, provided the following conditions are met:

1. The material to be burned shall consist of brush, stumps and similar debris waste that originated on site and shall not include demolition material.
2. If the burning is located in or adjacent to a residentially zoned area the burning must be at least 300 feet from any occupied building unless the occupants have given prior permission.
3. The location of the burning is not located within the rights-of-way of highways (including ditch lines).
4. The location of the burning is not within 150' of railroad tracks and airfields.
5. Burn must be attended at all times (unless an area of no less than 300' around fire is free of combustibles).
6. Burning shall not be allowed to smolder beyond the minimum period of time necessary for the destruction of the materials.
7. Burning shall be conducted only when the prevailing winds are away from any town or built-up area.
8. If water source is not available have a tractor or other equipment on site to control the fire.
9. The responsible party should notify the Campbell Communications Center (434-332-9574) of the date, time and location of the open burning.

Burning of Grass Clippings, Leaves and Yard debris (Minor Burning – Typically Residential in Nature)

Open burning is permitted on-site for the destruction of leaves, tree, yard, and garden trimmings, provided that these conditions are met:

1. The burning takes place on the premises of the private property where the debris originated.
2. If the burning is located in or adjacent to a residentially zoned area the burning must be at least 300 feet from any occupied building unless the occupants have given prior permission.
3. The location of the burning is not located within the rights-of-way of highways (including ditch lines).
4. Burning must be attended at all times and should have a water source.
5. The responsible party is requested to notify the Campbell Communications Center (434-332-9574) of the date, time and location of the open burning.

General Guidelines

In all areas non-residentially zoned or where permission is granted burning shall not be less than fifty feet (50') from any structure, nor be allowed to spread to within fifty feet (50') of any structure.

In all areas at least one approved on-site fire extinguishing material or equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose, water truck, or portable fire extinguisher(s) of minimum required rating, shall be available for immediate use.

In all areas any person who builds a fire in the open air, or uses a fire built by another in the open air, within one hundred, fifty (150) feet of any woodland, brushland or field containing dry grass or other inflammable material, shall totally extinguish the fire before leaving the area.

Agriculture Exemptions

Open burning for forest management and agriculture practices approved by the Virginia Air Pollution Control Board are exempt from Campbell's open burning regulations.

Burning of Building Materials

Air quality and solid waste regulations prohibit open burning of construction and demolition waste. Chemically treated lumber as well as synthetic and painted building materials contain high concentrations of hazardous compounds that produce toxic emissions when burned.

Burning of Buildings

Structures to be demolished by intentional burning are subject to State and Federal regulations. Virginia air quality regulations only allow buildings to be intentionally burned for the purpose of fire department training. Federal law requires that all asbestos be removed from any building (residential and non-residential) prior to authorized burning. For more information contact the Campbell County Fire Marshal's Office or Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Campfires (including chimineas, fire pits and other approved containers)

Air quality regulations allow the burning of logs, brush, charcoal and other similar materials for the purpose of food preparation, recreation, ceremonial occasions, and warming of outdoor workers. These type listed fires in approved containers should be at least 15 feet from an occupied building.

-Approved Containers- Fire receptacle or container in good condition and of substantial Noncombustible construction designed to minimize the release of firebrands and embers Through the use of metal screen. The container shall be placed on bare soil or gravel.

Virginia Forestry Burning Laws (4pm Law)

All citizens must comply with yearly open burning restrictions as required by the Virginia Department of Forestry. The Virginia 4 PM Burn Law is effective Feb. 15 – April 30. Contact the Virginia Dept. of Forestry for details

Open Burning Alternatives

Composting yard waste and using leaves and grass clippings for mulch are alternatives to open burning of yard waste. Composting produces valuable soil fertilizer through the natural process of decomposition. Compost piles are simple to begin and maintain, and take up relatively little space. For more information on composting at home, contact your county Extension Office.

Contact local programs about recycling of plastics, cardboard, paper, metals, etc. in your area. Donate reusable items to charitable organizations, families, or friends. Dispose of unwanted items in a licensed landfill or incinerator instead of open burning.

Open Burning Bans

Notwithstanding other regulations, the Campbell County Board of Supervisors and the County Fire Marshal may prohibit burning in certain areas or may require the immediate extinguishment of such burning when the burning will be or has become offensive, hazardous, or objectionable due to excessive smoke or offensive odors, or otherwise, due to local circumstances or atmospheric conditions.

Violations of any provision of this document excluding 4PM Burn Law may be found guilty of a Class 1 Misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than twenty-five hundred dollars(\$2,500) or by imprisonment of not more than twelve (12) months in jail or both.