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# Open Burning

CDC recommendations (new)

It is your responsibility to **KNOW THE LAW and all rules** when burning debris from land clearing or open burning in North Carolina. Always follow state and local rules or ordinances.

- Smoke is unhealthy to breathe
- You can be fined for illegal burning
- Recycle or properly dispose of your waste

The Open Burning Rule is one of North Carolina's oldest air quality regulations, first adopted in 1971. The rule prohibits much outdoor burning and sets conditions for allowable fires. Under the rule, it is always illegal to burn trash and other non-vegetative materials. Leaves, branches and other plant growth can be burned under certain conditions. Violators can be fined up to \$25,000 or more.

## Before you burn...



**KNOW**  
Know NC Open burning rules and regulations



**CHECK**  
Before you burn, check the air quality forecast @ [www.ncair.org](#)



**GET**  
Obtain a burn permit from the NC Forest Service @ [www.ncforestservice.gov](#)

## Questions and Complaints

For questions about open burning or to report an open burning complaint, please contact the [Air Quality Regional Office](#) for your county.



## Quick Info

Review NC DAQ flyer to learn the basics

- Storm Debris Open Burning guidance
- Open Burning Flyer
- Photo examples of illegal open burning



### [Burning Questions](#)

View a list of questions and answers about open burning and associated policies in North Carolina.

### [Setback Waivers](#)

Download and submit forms to the DAQ for consideration to burn land clearing debris within 500 feet of occupied dwellings.



### [Firefighter Information](#)

Download fire training forms and other fire department related information.

### [Teachers and Students](#)

Teachers and students can learn more about the dangers of open burning to both our environment and our health in this section. Teachers will find three fun, engaging, and student-centered classroom activities that they can easily bring into their classrooms. Click to learn more about the "Breathe, Don't Burn" Project.

## Regulations

The Open Burning Rule is one of North Carolina's oldest air quality regulations, first adopted in 1971. The rule prohibits much outdoor burning and sets conditions for allowable fires. Under the rule, it is always illegal to burn trash and other non-vegetative materials. Leaves, branches and other plant growth can be burned under certain conditions. Violators can be fined up to \$25,000 or more.

Read more about the Section .1900 Open Burning Rule [here](#).

**NOTE:** The N.C. General Assembly has amended several sections of the Open Burning Rule in recent years. In the 2014 session, legislators removed the restriction on burning stumps and logs over 6 inches in diameter for homeowners. Lawmakers also changed the rule so that smoke from allowable residential burning of large logs and stumps will not be considered a nuisance. More details can be viewed at [Regulatory Reform Act of 2014, Sect. 24](#) ([Open Burning Without an Air Quality Permit](#)) .

In the 2013 session, legislators amended restrictions on the transport of vegetative matter for outdoor burning. Under the change, vegetation from land-clearing operations may now be transported off-site and burned in another location under certain circumstances. Such burning may be allowed if the material is: burned not more than four times a year, located at least 500 feet from occupied buildings, and contains no more than two piles less than 20 feet in diameter. More details can be viewed in [Regulatory Reform Act of 2013, Sect. 28](#) ([Open Burning Without an Air Quality Permit](#)) .

U.S. EPA Resources:

- Volume 1: Technical Report, EPA Publication Number: [EPA-600/r-97-134a](#)
- Volume 2: Appendices A-G, EPA Publication Number: [EPA-600/r-97-134b](#)
- Project Summary (March 1998), EPA Publication Number: [EPA/600/SR-97/134](#)
- [AP-42 Air Pollution Emission Factors](#) (see section 2.5 for open burning)

## Air Quality Compliance

[EPA Policies](#)

[Annual Compliance Certification](#)

[Excess Emissions, Deviations, and Malfunction Determinations](#)

[Civil Penalty Assessments](#)

[Emission Measurement](#)

[Special Orders by Consent](#)

[GIS/Facility Mapping Tool](#)

## Open Burning

[Press Releases](#)

[Publications and Other Information](#)

[Burning Questions](#)

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[Firefighter Information](#)

[Examples of Illegal Open Burning](#)

[Teachers & Students](#)

[Important Links and Documents](#)

[Quema a Campo Abierto](#)

[Stage I Vapor Recovery](#)

[Compliance Assurance Monitoring \(CAM\)](#)

[Compliance Monitoring Strategy \(CMS\)](#)

[How NC DAQ Will Evaluate Natural Gas Curtailment](#)

[Chemical Accident Prevention](#)

[Recycled Oil Management Program](#)

[Continuous Emissions Monitoring Systems \(CEMS\)](#)