

Do You Need a Smoke Permit?

Smoke Contacts:

Open Burn Smoke Permit contacts vary [by county](#). Contact the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) at (303) 692-3268, the fire department or the county’s health department (listed in the government pages of the phone book).

Prescribed Fire Smoke Permit - Contact: APCD at (303) 692-3224 or (303) 916-1260.

What are you Burning?	How Much?	Smoke Permit Needed
Agricultural Burning	Any	None
Fire Department Training	<50 piles per year, small hand piles or <10 acres grass OR < 5 acres shrubland or forest*	None
Piles	<50 piles per year, small hand piles	Open Burn Smoke Permit Contact: local health dept. or State APCD
Piles	50 or more piles per year OR big machine piles	Prescribed Fire Smoke Permit Contact: State APCD
Broadcast (not agricultural)	<10 acres grass OR < 5 acres shrubland or forest	Open Burn Smoke Permit Contact: local health dept. or State APCD
Broadcast (not agricultural)	10 or more acres grass OR 5 or more acres shrubland or forest	Prescribed Fire Smoke Permit Contact: State APCD

* For larger training burns, permit requirements for broadcast or piles apply.

Definitions

Agricultural Burning: “open burning of cover vegetation for the purpose of preparing the soil for crop production, weed control, maintenance of water conveyance structures related to agricultural operations, and other agricultural cultivation purposes.” [Colorado Air Regulation 9]

Piles: Made from branches or brush from thinning, pruning, timber harvesting, or wildfire hazard mitigation.

“Small piles” must be out cold by sunset. Usually they are built by hand and smaller than 6-8’ on any side.

“Large piles ” may burn for more than a day. Usually they are built during logging operations and/or with heavy equipment.

Broadcast: Burning grass, shrubs, and other plants where they grow, and not in piles.





Using Prescribed Fire in Colorado

What permits do I need and where do I get them?

Start with your fire department
Contact :

Ask: Does your fire department issue permits for burns?

<p>No.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Even if the fire department does not issue fire control permits, notify them when you burn.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check chart on next page to see whether you need a smoke permit.</p>
<p>Yes. Only the fire department signs the permit.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Get a fire control permit from the fire department.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check chart on next page to see whether you need a smoke permit.</p>
<p>Yes. The fire department and the health department both sign the permit.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Get a combined fire control and smoke permit from the fire department.</p>

Definitions

Fire Control Permits are issued by a local fire authority to limit risk of wildfire. Fire control permits may have requirements for burning such as dates and times of day, weather, amount of burning, notifications, equipment and people needed, etc. Contact: Local fire department.

Smoke Permits are issued by a health agency to limit smoke's effects on people. Smoke permits may have requirements similar to fire control permits but are geared for smoke management.

Open Burn Smoke Permits are for relatively small fires. Open burn smoke permits are issued by either the county's or the state's health department. Prescribed Fire Smoke Permits are for larger fires and are only issued by the state. Contacts: See next page.

Tips for Safe Burning

Comply with Local Regulations.

Contact your local fire department to confirm that burning is allowed and to find out whether a permit is required to burn debris. If so, obtain necessary permits and follow requirements.

Choose a Safe Site.

Avoid power lines, overhanging limbs, buildings, vehicles, etc. A safe site has horizontal clearance at least twice the height of the pile, and vertical clearance at least three times the pile's height. Heat will extend far past the visible flame.

Prepare the Site.

Piles should be surrounded by gravel, bare dirt, or thick snow for at least ten feet in all directions. As needed, water down the surrounding area before and during the burn.

Keep it Legal.

It is illegal to burn plastic, tires, construction materials and most other waste products not from a tree or shrub.

Keep it Clean.

Dirt in piles causes extra work and unnecessary pollution. It may also make control harder. If you are using heavy equipment, use a rake, grapple or thumb. Don't push tree waste with a blade, even carefully. Building piles tall for their footprint also makes for less smoke as well as easier burning.

Check the Forecast.

Sudden wind gusts or unexpectedly dry weather could turn your burn into a wildfire. Call your local fire department if you aren't sure whether the day's weather is safe for fire control.

Lingering smoke can cause breathing problems for your neighbors. See the prescribed fire smoke website below for sources of smoke dispersion forecasts.

Work Safely.

Make sure someone knows your whereabouts. Wear gloves, safety glasses, and heavy boots. Don't wear synthetic fabrics. Light carefully, and never use straight gasoline. Once the fire catches, give it lots of room.

Stay with your Fire.

Stay with your fire until it is out cold. Drown it with water then turn the ashes with a shovel. Repeat until you can safely leave your bare hand in the cold ashes. Even then, check the area regularly with your bare hand over the next several days to weeks.

To learn more about the safe use of prescribed fire

Colorado State Forest Service: <http://csfs.colostate.edu/> or (970) 491-6303

Colorado State Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) (303) 692-3268

open burn smoke permits: <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDPHE-AP/CBON/1251595664753>

prescribed fire smoke permits: <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDPHE-AP/CBON/1251610137406>

