



Black Forest Fire/Rescue

Vegetation Management Burning Guidelines & Information

The Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District promotes and protects the general health, safety and welfare within the Black Forest Community

El Paso County has approved Ordinance 15-01, which regulates open burning in the unincorporated areas of El Paso County, Colorado

This Ordinance became effective on January 15th, 2015

Vegetation Management Burning Information

Vegetation management burning is defined as a fire that is intentionally used for grassland or forest management, including vegetative, habitat or fuel management. This includes the burning of clean, dry yard waste (vegetative material).

Prior to conducting a vegetation management burn there are several steps you must take. These include:

- Obtaining an “Open Burning Air Quality Permit” from the El Paso County Department of Health and Environment.
- Arrange for a site visit with the Black Forest Fire/Rescue District, (this is required prior to permit approval).
- Obtaining an “Open Burning Permit” from the El Paso County Sheriff’s Office. (Must be approved and signed by the Sheriff’s Office and the Fire District)
- Adhering to all El Paso County and Fire District rules pertaining to Vegetation Management Burning.
- Maintaining a copy of the approved permit on-site of the burn.

Vegetation Management Burning Guideline

Persons with an Open Burning Permit must notify the Sheriff’s Office and Fire District one hour before commencing burn and at the completion of the burn.

Open burns must be constantly and directly attended and observed at all times. Extinguishing equipment must be available for immediate use.

Burns must be conducted 50’ or more from any structure or combustible fence.

Burns may only be conducted when actual or predicted wind speeds are 10 mph or less.

For burns above 7000 feet in elevation there must be a minimum of 3” of snow on the ground around slash piles.

Pile size may be up to 8’ wide and at least 4’ tall, with no material greater than 6” in diameter.

If the burn is conducted by someone other than the legal property owner, written permission must be obtained from the legal property owner and submitted with the burn permit.

A reasonable effort must be made to contact and notify adjacent property owners/neighbors prior to burning.



There shall be **NO** Vegetation Management Burning while a red flag warning is in effect or during Stage I or Stage II Fire Restrictions



Black Forest Fire/Rescue

11445 Teachout Rd
Colorado Springs, CO 80908
Phone: 719-495-4300
Fax: 719-495-7504
www.bffire.org

In Case of Emergency

Dial 911

Resources and Links

El Paso County Department of Health and Environment: (719)-578-3199
www.elpasocountyhealth.org/service/air-quality/open-burn-application.

El Paso County Sheriff's Office:
(719)-390-5555
www.epcsheriffsoffice.com

Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District: (719)-495-4300
www.bffire.org

Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control:
<http://dfs.state.co.us/programs-2/emergency-management/wildland-fire-management/prescribed-burning>

Black Forest Together: (719)-495-2445
<http://www.blackforesttogether.org/>

Black Forest Slash/Mulch Program
<http://www.bfslash.org/>

Pikes Peak Wildfire Prevention Partners
<http://ppwpp.org/>

Firewise Communities
<http://firewise.org/?sso=0>