



Prevent • Promote • Protect

Environmental Health Division

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OPEN BURNING PERMIT PROCESS

El Paso County Public Health issues Open Burning Permits to evaluate air quality issues that can impact public health. This is provided under a contract with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Air Pollution Control Division. Open burning without a permit is illegal and can result in fines up to \$10,000 per day. Open Burn Permits are no charge.

Do I Need an Open Burn Permit?

Anyone in El Paso County who wishes to burn any flammable material on any open premises is required to obtain an Open Burning Permit, with the following exceptions:

- Training fires conducted according to NFPA Standard 1403, under the authority of an organized fire department or other fire protection agency.
- Prescribed burns permitted by the Air Quality Control Division of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and conducted in accordance with 5 CCR 1001-11 Regulation Number 9, Open Burning, Prescribed Fire and Permitting.
- Fires used for non-commercial cooking of food for human consumption.
- Emergency flares used to indicate danger.
- Recreational fires, including bonfires and campfires that do not utilize materials which might release toxic materials.
- Agricultural open burning.

Open Burning Permits will not be issued, nor will existing permits be valid, when Stage I or Stage II Fire Restrictions are in place.

How do I apply for an Open Burn Permit?

Applications for Open Burning Permits are available:

- Online at - <http://www.elpasocountyhealth.org/service/air-quality/open-burn-application>
- At El Paso County Public Health, 1675 W. Garden of the Gods Rd., Suite 2044, Colorado Springs.
- Open Burn Permits are no charge.

Open Burning Permit applications are reviewed for completeness (to include a photograph of proposed materials to be burned). The applicant is contacted for further information, if necessary.

What are the Requirements?

The permit holder is responsible for a number of items listed on the permit, including:

- Notifying El Paso County Public Health, the local fire department/district, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, and adjacent landowners prior to ignition;
- Burning only between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.; and,
- Obtaining any additional permits and/or clearances from any appropriate fire control office, local agency, or other official prior to submission of the permit.
- Prohibited materials include; construction debris, fencing, furniture, stumps, household garbage, structures, treated wood, hazardous materials, commercial waste and animal carcasses.

Questions or suggestions regarding open burning permits should be directed to:

- Danielle Hannaly-Gentle; DanielleHannaly-Gentle@elpasoco.com; 719.575.8426; or,
- Jim Goodwin; JimGoodwin@elpasoco.com; 719.578.3142.

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