



York County Department of Fire and Life Safety

PERMIT REQUIRED Burning Regulations

- All reasonable efforts shall be made to minimize the amount of material burned, with the number and size of the debris piles approved by the fire official or designee (i.e., Fire Marshal, etc.).
- The material to be burned shall consist of brush, stumps and similar debris waste and shall not include demolition material.
- The burning shall be at least 500 feet from any occupied building unless otherwise approved by the fire official or designee (i.e., Fire Marshal, etc.), other than a building located on the property on which the burning is conducted.
- The burning shall be conducted at the greatest distance practicable from highways and airfields.
- The burning shall be attended at all times and conducted to ensure the best possible combustion with a minimum of smoke being produced.
- The burning shall not be allowed to smolder beyond the minimum period of time necessary for the destruction of the materials.
- The burning shall be conducted only when the prevailing winds are away from any city, town or built-up area.

When open burning of debris waste is to occur within York County, the person(s) responsible for the burning shall obtain a permit from the fire official prior to the burning. Such a permit may be granted only after confirmation from the fire official or designee (i.e., Fire Marshal, etc.) that the burning can and will comply with the provisions of the York County Fire Prevention Code and any other conditions which are deemed necessary to ensure that the burning will not endanger the health, welfare, and/or safety of the public and will be in compliance with any applicable provisions of the State Air Pollution Control Board's Regulations for the Control and Abatement of Air Pollution.

The permit may be issued for each occasion of burning or for a specific period of time deemed appropriate by the fire official.

Each application for a burning permit shall be accompanied by a processing fee of \$50 (per permit) and an additional \$25 for each required site visit after an initial two visits.

Permitted open burning may be prohibited as necessary on Saturdays/Sundays/local, state and federal legal holidays and at other times when deemed necessary by the fire official or designee (i.e., Fire Marshal, etc.).

Permit open burning is prohibited by State Air Pollution Control Board regulations from May 1 until October 1.

State forestry laws prohibit open burning before 4:00 pm between February 15 and April 30 (any authorized permit burning during this specific period may occur only between 4:00 and midnight).

Permits are also required for bonfires – for additional information about bonfire burning requirements, contact the Prevention and Community Safety Division at 890-3600, during normal business hours, Monday-Friday 8:15 A.M. - 5 P.M., except holidays.