

BURNING QUESTIONS

Duplin County
Fire Marshal
April 2022



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS RELATED TO OPEN-BURNING

May I burn my garbage or other household trash?

No. It is always illegal to burn garbage and household trash. This includes, but is not limited to: garbage, paper, and cardboard, tires and other rubber products, building materials including lumber, wire, plastics, and synthetic materials, asphalt shingles and heavy oils, paints, household and agricultural chemicals synthetic materials, asphalt shingles and heavy oils, paints, household and agricultural chemicals.

What items can I burn on my property?

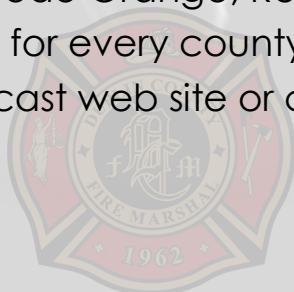
Any natural vegetation that originated on that property, which less than 6 inches in diameter. Items that are 6 inches in diameter or larger, will need to consult the NC Forest Service for more information.

Are there negative health effects from burning household and/or backyard trash?

Yes. Smoke from fires containing synthetic materials can be a serious health threat to you and your neighbors, particularly for those with respiratory conditions such as asthma or emphysema. Potential human health effects include: lung and eye irritation, headaches, dizziness, asthma attacks, and coughing. The toxins from the remaining ash leach into the soil to be taken up by plants or may get into streams, lakes, ponds or groundwater.

Should I check the air quality forecast before conducting allowable outdoor burning?

Yes. Do not burn outdoors on Code Orange, Red or Purple days. DAQ and local air programs issue forecasts for every county in North Carolina. To check the forecast, visit the DAQ forecast web site or call 919-707-8400.



Do burning regulations change based on living in a municipality?

Yes. Municipalities may enact different burning regulations, so long as they are at least as stringent as those established by 15A NCAC 2D .1900. Please check with your local City/Town Hall to request information.

Do I need a burning permit to burn yard debris?

Yes. You may obtain a burning permit, free of charge by visiting: https://www.ncforestservice.gov/burn_permits/burn_permits_main.htm.

How do I know if there is an active burning ban?

Burning Bans may be issued by any governing body. You will need to check with all those agencies to which your property where you intend to burn applies. This will include the State of North Carolina, and may include the County of Duplin or any Municipality.

Check this Link for the State of NC: https://www.ncforestservice.gov/fire_control/sit_report.htm

Check this link for the County of Duplin: <https://www.duplincountync.com/fire-emergencymanagement/>

Check with your respective Town/City Hall for more information on Municipal information.

I am aware that an illegal fire is burning on my property, but I did not cause it. Am I allowed to let the fire continue burning because I did not cause it?

No. You cannot cause, allow, or permit illegal open burning.

My neighbor thinks my yard waste burning stinks. Is this considered a nuisance and can I be prohibited from open burning solely because he/she objects to the odor?

No. Smoke from allowable open burning is not considered a nuisance under the Open Burning Rule as amended by the Regulatory Reform Act of 2014.



What documentation should I submit to the Regional Supervisor to get permission to burn within 500 feet of occupied structures?

You need a signed waiver from each occupied structure within 500 feet and a clear map showing the location of the burning and each occupied structure.

May I use fires to assist in burning my land clearing debris?

No. The open burning of tires is illegal, unhealthy, and can result in significant civil penalty assessments.

Are there certain restrictions for campfires, bonfires, and other ceremonial fires?

Yes. These fires cannot use synthetic materials, refuse, or salvageable materials for fuel.

Is there an agriculture exemption for open-burning of polyethylene agricultural plastics?

Yes. North Carolina General Statute Article 78 § 106-950.

RELATED LINKS

NC Forest Service

<https://www.ncforestservice.gov/index.htm>

North Carolina Burning Permit

https://www.ncforestservice.gov/burn_permits/burn_permits_main.htm

NC Division of Air Quality

<https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/air-quality/air-quality-compliance/open-burning>

Duplin County Fire & Emergency Management

<https://www.duplincountync.com/fire-emergencymanagement/>

