

Eagle County Community Development



Open Burning Permit APPLICATION GUIDELINES

The Colorado Air Pollution Control laws and regulations prohibit open burning throughout the State unless a permit has been obtained from the appropriate air pollution control authorities, Eagle County and your local fire district. In granting or denying any such permit, the authorities shall base their actions on the potential contribution to air pollution in the area, climatic conditions on the day or days of such burning, and the authorities' satisfaction that there is no practical alternate method for the disposal of the material to be burned.

A. - Burning Guidelines and Restrictions

1. **During publicly announced periods of Air Pollution Emergency** or alert, all permits are suspended in alert areas. In such cases, burning may be conducted only with direct permission from the granting authorities. No burning will be done when local wind speeds exceed 15 miles per hour.
2. **At no time shall the burning be left unattended.** Burning shall be supervised by one or more responsible persons depending on the type of burning. Whenever possible the burn pile shall be a small hot fire designed to reduce smoke and emissions. Precautions shall be taken to localize the burning and in no way constitute a fire hazard to persons or property within or adjacent to the area of burning. The granting authorities and the employees or agents thereof, in the issuing of a permit, do not assume any responsibility or liability for any hazardous condition created by the permittee which results in damage to the person or property of the permittee, or the person or property of any third person.
3. **Burning shall be restricted to the item(s) and location as indicated.** All operations shall be subject to inspection by the Air Pollution Control Division, or its representatives. No person shall burn or allow the burning of rubbish, wastepaper, construction debris, or debris from land development activities.
4. **This permit shall be retained by the person supervising the burning** and shall be shown upon request of appropriate official without delay.
5. **The permit is for compliance with air pollution control requirements only** and is not a permit to violate any existing local laws, rules, regulations, or ordinances regarding fire, zoning, or building.

6. **The permittee is responsible for obtaining any additional permits** and/or clearances from any appropriate fire office, any local agency, home owners association, or other officials prior to submission of this permit.
7. **Permittee will notify the appropriate fire district** and either the **Vail Communications Center** at (970)471-2201 or, if on the Roaring Fork, the **Aspen Communications Center** at (970) 920-5310 on each separate day of your intent to burn and the location of the burn.
8. **The permittee, his employees, agents and assignees shall abide by the conditions and restrictions contained herein.** Any violations of these same conditions and restrictions shall render this permit null and void.
9. **This permit shall be good for only 14 days during the allowed time period.**
10. **Equipment to provide proper control of the burn shall be available and utilized whenever warranted.**
11. **This permit may be extended by calling Eagle County at 970-328-8730.**

B. - Agricultural Burns *(Please note: Open Burning Permits for Agricultural burns are **strongly** recommended, but not required. Permits are on voluntary basis only).*

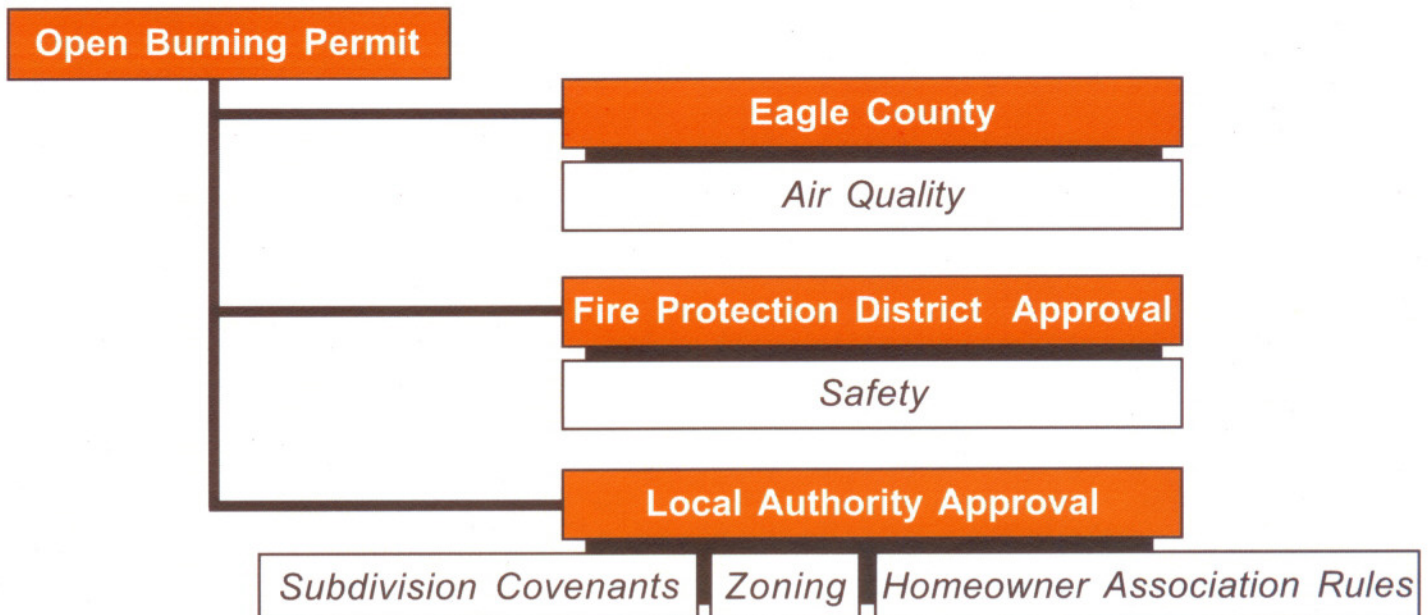
Agricultural burning has been practiced in this area for many years. Farmers and ranchers have found burning to be the most effective method of ridding irrigation ditches and ditch banks of noxious weed seed and dead grass, which tends to collect and effectively restrict the flow of water much below the carrying capacity of the ditch before the season is over. It is necessary, however, to follow a few simple rules when burning for this purpose. Here are some pointers for safe burning:

1. **WHEN DEALING WITH FIRE, ALWAYS BE PREPARED FOR THE WORST CASE SCENARIO.**
2. **Check the weather forecast for expected conditions on the day of burning.** Prevailing winds in this area are from westerly directions. Bear in mind, however, wind can change direction rapidly. Light winds can aid burning, but high winds can cause fire to get out of control.
3. **Before starting a running fire (such as an irrigation ditch) establish fire breaks at points where you want the fire to stop.** To establish a fire break, whether it is a wet line, fuel break, or fire line, construct the break at least 3 times the height of the fuel (material) you are burning: i.e., 3 foot tall grass needs a minimum of a 9 foot break. Start fire next to edge of one strip and burn upwind or downhill (if possible) until all fuel has been consumed in that strip. Continue burning strip-by-strip until completed.
4. **When burning near buildings, trees, etc, wet the exposure you wish to protect and all the fuel next to it.** Light your fire next to your fire break and close to the structure and let the

fire back away from the structure. Do not start at a distance and burn toward the exposure; this will create too much heat and intensity, making the fire hard or impossible to control.

5. **Always have a shovel, or other tools, for moving soil, and water readily available.** Have a garden hose with an adjustable nozzle running when possible. A five-gallon bucket of water with a soup can for distributing the water works very well for small fires that spread out from the sides of the main fire. This small amount of water thrown across a flank of a fire will usually stop it from spreading. A wet gunnysack is also a very effective fire swatting/suppression tool.
6. **Burn upwind or downhill whenever possible, especially when the fuel is heavy.** These techniques slow the fire's rate-of-spread.
7. **Don't let your fire burn in several directions at the same time.** You will soon have more fire than you can control.
9. **Don't leave your fire unattended** until you are certain it is dead. Many a smoldering fire has rekindled hours after it was set.
10. **If your fire gets out of control, or you think it might get out of control, CALL YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT.** They have the equipment, manpower, and the training to handle it.
11. **Agricultural burning does not include forest or habitat management activities by land managers.**

C. - Process



Contact Us



For More Information Contact:

Eric Lovgren
Eagle County Wildfire Mitigation Manager
C/o Community Development
P.O. Box 179,
500 Broadway
Eagle, Colorado
81631-0179

Phone: General: (970) 328-8730
Direct: (970) 328-8742
Fax: (970) 328-7185
TDD: (970) 328-8797
eric.lovgren@eaglecounty.us