

# Guide to Burning

in Mesa County



Read through this guide and **click here** to apply for your Open Burn Permit!

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# Why is burning regulated?

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1. To protect the health of our residents

2. To reduce pollution in Mesa County

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## What permits are offered?

### 1. Agricultural Burn Permit

- a. \$0 fee
- b. Valid for a calendar year
- c. Combined with the fire safety regulations.
  - i) Registering for this permit gives your local fire department a heads up that you'll be burning.

### 2. General Burn Permit

- a. \$25 for an annual permit, valid for both Spring and Fall Open Burn Seasons of the same calendar year.
- b. Properties must be at least one acre in size to open burn. Properties smaller than one acre may burn to maintain irrigation ditch/lateral only.
- c. Daily limits for open burning are 10 acres per day for non-pile burning and less than 250 cubic feet per day for pile burning.
- d. Piles should be at least 300 feet apart, otherwise, consider one pile for burning.
- e. Piles should be 50 feet from structures, including combustible fence.
- f. Expectations for violation investigation and enforcement to protect the health and safety of Mesa County residents.

### 3. City of Grand Junction Permit

- a. If your property is within Grand Junction City limits, contact the Grand Junction Fire Department at (970) 549-5800 or click [here](#).



# When can I burn?

1. Agricultural Burn Permits allow burning year-round.
2. General Burn Permits allow burning only during the burn seasons
  - a. Spring Open burn Season - March 1 through May 31
  - b. Fall Open Burn Season - September 1 through October 31
3. Burns must take place two hours after sunrise and must be completely extinguished two hours before sunset.

\*Residents above 6,000 feet elevation are exempt from the seasonal restrictions.

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## What can I burn?

- ✓ Agricultural Burns - materials related to the agricultural process
    - a. cover vegetation to prepare the land for crop production
    - b. orchard trimmings
    - c. weeds
    - d. maintenance of irrigation ditches
  - ✓ General Burns
    - a. dry weeds
    - b. dry garden waste
    - c. clean, dry tree, shrub or brush trimmings less than 1" in diameter
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## What can't I burn?

- |               |                                |                |
|---------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| ✗ Trash       | ✗ Treated wood or pallets      | ✗ Insulation   |
| ✗ Tree stumps | ✗ Construction debris/ lumber  | ✗ Aerosol cans |
| ✗ Tires       | ✗ Hazardous or toxic materials | ✗ Plastic      |
| ✗ Chemicals   | ✗ Commercial landscaping waste |                |
| ✗ Motor Oil   | ✗ Leaf and grass clippings     |                |

\*\*\*Burning in a barrel is PROHIBITED at all times.

# Why are Open Burn Bans Issued?

## ⊘ Weather

- High Wind Warnings
- Red Flag Warnings
- Fire Weather Watch
- Wind Advisories

## ⊘ Air Quality

- Western Slope Airwatch Alerts
- Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment Air Quality Action Days

## ⊘ Public Safety

- Mesa County Sheriff's Office Burn Bans

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## How do I get a permit?

1.

Apply online at [www.health.mesacounty.us](http://www.health.mesacounty.us) or contact Mesa County Public Health at (970) 248-6900.

- Residents who need assistance using the online system or don't have access to a computer or an internet connection, can still apply for an Open Burn Permit in person at Mesa County Public Health, 510 29 ½ Road in Grand Junction, or at Lower Valley Fire District, 166 N Mesa St. in Fruita.
- Public computers are also available at Mesa County Libraries locations for individuals who need computer access to apply for a burn permit. Printouts from library computers cost 15 cents per page.

2.

Carefully read the conditions of the permit and agree to follow the rules for Open Burning.

3.

Print a copy of your permit and ensure it's available on site of the burn.

4.

Follow the instructions on the permit.

Click [here](#) to leave this website and be redirected to a secure payment site to fill out your application and purchase your Open Burn Permit.