

BURN PERMIT INFORMATION

TO OBTAIN A BURN PERMIT

BURNING REGULATIONS



Your property lies within
BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST
WILDLAND FIRE
PROTECTION ZONE

Contact any Bitterroot Forest office
for further information.

*If you have received this brochure it is necessary
that you gather more specific information
BEFORE BURNING, by visiting or contacting:*

Stevensville Ranger District

88 Main Street, Stevensville, MT 59870

(406) 777-5461

Darby Ranger District

712 N. Hwy 93, Darby, MT 59829

(406) 821-3913

Sula Ranger District

7338 S. Hwy 93, Sula, MT 59871

(406) 821-3201

West Fork Ranger District

6735 West Fork Rd, Darby, MT 59829

(406) 821-3269



All Valley Fire Council



Bitterroot RC&D



From May 1 to September 30 (fire season),
burning permits will be issued Monday-
Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm unless site-
specific environmental conditions are not
conducive to burning.

The Bitterroot National Forest offices are
not staffed during the weekend, so if you
intend to burn on the weekend, remember
to call and arrive before 4:30 pm on Friday.

A Bitterroot Forest representative may
need to visit your burn site first, so plan
ahead and call *BEFORE* you intend to
burn.

On the day you plan to burn, call the
Sheriff's Office at 363-3033 and give them
the location of your burn.

Dec. 1 to Feb. 29

No Open Burning (Season
Closed)

Mar. 1 to Apr. 30

Open Burning
No Burning Permit Required,
but Recommended *

May 1 to Sept. 30

Burn Permit Required
Burning May be Restricted **

Sept. 1 to Nov. 30

Air Quality Compliance
Required (see next page)

Oct. 1 to Nov. 30

Open Burning
No Burn Permit Required

*** Burn permits are recommended in order to reduce
The risk and hazard of escaped fires and false
alarms.**

**** Bitterroot Forest representatives and/or County
Commissioners may restrict open burning within
Ravalli County during HIGH fire danger.**

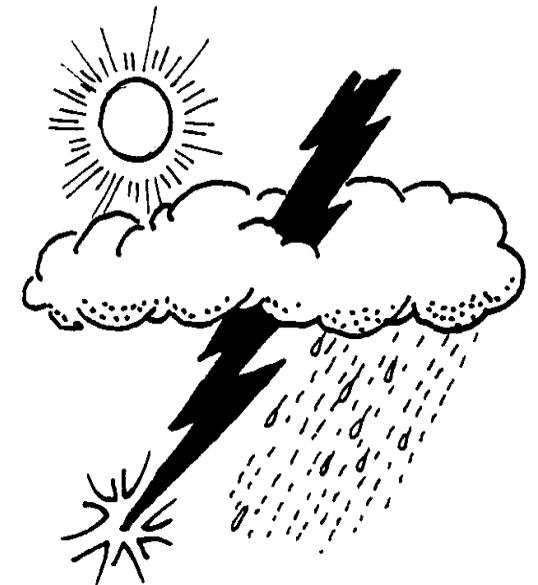
In addition to the burning permit, you are
required by law to comply with Montana's
DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
"OPEN BURNING REGULATION".

Additional local regulations may also apply
in certain towns, cities and counties.

Air Quality Ventilation Hotline **1-800-225-6779**

for notice of any restrictions in effect within
"Airshed 4" for Ravalli County.

You may also visit
www.smokemu.org



Bitterroot National Forest
Fire Prevention & Education Group
1801 N. 1st Street
Hamilton, MT 59840

RESIDENT OF

BURN PERMITS ARE REQUIRED

The Montana State Forest Fire Season is from May 1 through September 30 each year. During this period, permits are required for open debris burning. (Definition 76-13-102 MCA, State Statute 76-13-121 MCA)

Please Be Careful With Fire!

Escaped debris fires can threaten valuable resources, as well as lives and property.

Follow the information provided in this pamphlet to reduce the risk of escaped debris fire.

Remember, you are responsible for any and all suppression costs if your fire escapes your control! (State Statute 50-63-103-MCA)



What Can You Burn?

Only two types of debris burning are allowed in Montana:

1. Agricultural debris
This debris is created from farming, ranching, and gardening. Your field or garden may benefit if you simply plow the dried plants and leaves under. If you intend to burn, be sure you are fully prepared. If possible, a fire control line should be plowed around the area to be burned. Large fields should be divided into small plots to be burned one at a time.
2. Wildland debris
 - A. Natural accumulations of needles, grasses, shrubs, limbs and trees.
 - B. Unnatural accumulations of fuel are the result to some management activities in the wildland such as land-clearing, or timber harvesting.

PROPER BURNING BASICS

BURN ONLY NATURAL VEGETATION AND WOODY MATERIALS

Keep piles free of dirt. Use brush blades on dozers when piling slash with heavy equipment. When possible, use an excavator to pile.

Put debris in small piles so the fire will be hot, yet manageable. Wet or dirt-covered materials will cause fires to smolder and emit more smoke.

Build debris piles in openings away from bodies of water, structures, and overhead branches.

Piles can be covered with plastic or waterproof paper and anchored with additional slash. This practice will allow piles to be burned during periods of time when other adjacent fuels are too wet to burn and control is not a problem or concern. (Remember to remove plastic before igniting.)

Scrape away debris and any other burnable materials several feet around the piles to be burned. The result should be bare soil around each pile.

Keep plenty of water and sufficient personnel, tools and equipment ready in case of unexpected changes in fire behavior.

Light the fire only when you have an update on safe weather and safe burning conditions. (i.e. winds calm, weather cool)

When possible, make plans to re-pile debris as piles are consumed, this will allow the fire to be put out as quickly as possible.

The fire must be attended until no live embers or smoke remain.



**CALL 911 TO REPORT AN
UNCONTROLLED
OR UNATTENDED FIRE.**

DEFENSIBLE SPACE

For home/outbuilding fire suppression needs contact your local Rural Fire Department. The Bitterroot National Forest will provide wildland fire suppression only.

When constructing, renovating or adding to a fire wise home, consider the following:

- ◆ Selection of a fire wise location.
- ◆ When designing and building your fire wise structure, remember that the primary goals are fuel and exposure reduction.
- ◆ Any structures attached to the house, such as decks, porches, fences, and outbuildings should be considered part of the house. These structures can act as fuel bridges, particularly if constructed from flammable materials.

When designing and installing a fire wise landscape, consider the following:

- ◆ In creating a fire wise landscape, remember that the primary goal is fuel reduction. To this end, initiate the zone concept. Zone 1 is closest to the structure; Zones 2-4 move progressively further away.

Also remember to:

- ◆ Leave a minimum of 30' around the house to accommodate fire equipment, if necessary.
- ◆ Widely space and carefully situate the trees you plant.
- ◆ Take out the "ladder fuels" — vegetation that serves as a link between grass and tree tops. This arrangement can carry fire to a structure or from a structure to vegetation.
- ◆ Give yourself added protection with "fuel breaks" like driveways, gravel walkways, and lawns.

When maintaining a landscape:

- ◆ Keep trees and shrubs properly pruned. Prune all trees so the lowest limbs are 6' to 10' from the ground.
- ◆ Remove leaf clutter and dead and overhanging branches.
- ◆ Mow the lawn regularly.
- ◆ Dispose of cuttings and debris promptly, according to local regulations.
- ◆ Store firewood away from the house.
- ◆ Be sure the irrigation system is well maintained.
- ◆ Use care when refueling garden equipment and maintain it regularly.
- ◆ Store and use flammable liquids properly.
- ◆ Dispose of smoking materials carefully.
- ◆ Become familiar with local regulations regarding vegetation clearances, disposal of debris, and fire safety requirements for equipment.
- ◆ Follow manufacturers' instructions when using fertilizers and pesticides.

For additional information on these Firewise topics access

www.firewise.org

FOR YOUR PROTECTION

Burn permits are normally issued based on current fire danger. As the fire danger increases, the permit period can be limited or issuance stopped completely.

DO NOT BURN WHEN: HIGH OR ERRATIC WINDS ARE FORECAST OR DRY CONDITIONS PREVAIL.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO BURY ANY BURNING MATERIAL AS FIRE CAN AND WILL BURN UNDERGROUND, SOMETIMES FOR SEVERAL MONTHS!

Have proper equipment on the burn site to control the fire and to spread the piles apart after burning, watering and stirring the remains down to ensure the fire is DEAD-OUT!!!

BURN BARRELS ARE ILLEGAL

State law does not allow the use of burn barrels. The types of material burned in the containers pose a serious health risk to humans and the environment.
Please do not use them.

CAMPFIRES

You do not need to obtain a Burn Permit to have a campfire. But . . . Let's not set the woods on fire! (State Statutes 76-13-121 MCA; 76-13-123 MCA.) **BE SURE . . .** Your campfire is DEAD OUT, leave no trace.

ALTERNATIVES TO BURNING

- ◆ Make a compost pile out of small organic materials.
- ◆ Till vegetative waste materials into the soil.
- ◆ Haul debris to a landfill.
- ◆ Use your thinning/logging debris for firewood.
- ◆ Chip logging debris and slash.
- ◆ Cut and scatter logging debris.
- ◆ Machine crush or trample logging debris.

For possible cost-share projects involving hazardous fuels treatments or alternative methods to burning, contact Bitterroot Resource Conservation & Development (406) 363-1444, or access their website

www.bitterrootrcd.org