

BURNING TIPS

1. Make sure piles are clean. Dirt in piles creates more smoke by starving the fire of air. This tends to be a problem with piles created by bulldozers.
2. Burn only one or two piles at a time. This lets you more carefully tend the fires and reduces the amount of smoke you put into the air at any one time.
3. Let the piles burn "hot." If you constantly spray water onto the fire, you create more smoke. However, always do whatever is needed to adequately and safely control your fire. Never let it get out of control.
4. Plan to burn as early as possible in the fall. By November, very few days are open for burning because of air quality concerns.
5. Save most of your burning for the spring when the airshed can handle more smoke. To wait out the winter, cover the piles with tarps so they will be dry and ready to burn when the season begins.
6. Always call the Missoula Outdoor Burning Hotline on the day you plan to burn. Fines for burning during restrictions are up to \$10,000 per offense, plus any suppression costs.

For more information

If you live in a forested area and have not talked with your local fire protection agency about how to Firewise your property, please call them today. To learn more about the FireWise Program, check out www.firewise.org

For more information about the Missoula County Fire Protection Association, check out www.mcfpa.org

If you are interested in more information about air quality outdoor burning restrictions, please contact the Missoula City-County Health Department.

Missoula County Outdoor Burning Hotlines

728-2667

most of Missoula County

677-2899

areas north of Clearwater Junction



Missoula County
Fire Protection
Association
www.mcfpa.org

Missoula City-County Health Department
301 West Alder
Missoula, MT 59802
Phone: (406) 523-4755
Fax: (406) 523-4781
www.co.missoula.mt.us/EnvHealth

Prescribed Wildland Burning



in
**Missoula
County**

Prescribed Wildland Burning

Permits Required

The Missoula City-County Health Department regulates all outdoor burning in Missoula County in order to protect air quality. In cooperation with the Missoula County Fire Protection Association (MCFPA), the Health Department requires a permit for every burn in the county. Permits are free and are available at your local fire protection agency. In the fall, fire agencies can only issue permits for essential agricultural burning and prescribed wildland burning. This pamphlet describes when burning on improved properties qualifies as Prescribed Wildland Burning.

What it is

Typically, Prescribed Wildland Burning is used by loggers to reduce fuel from harvesting activities and by land management agencies as a tool for restoring forest health. However, as more people choose to live in and next to wildlands, Prescribed Wildland Burning has come to include hazard reduction burning near homes.

Residents in forested areas are encouraged to create fire resistant zones around their homes. By removing trees, tree limbs, shrubbery, undergrowth and other vegetation, they can reduce the risk of wildfire damage to their homes and property. However, this activity usually results in wood waste, which must be disposed of to get the desired effect. This waste can be chipped, composted, landfilled or burned. When residents choose burning, it can be considered Prescribed Wildland Burning as long as it takes place on forested property and is part of a Firewise plan to create defensible space or to improve forest habitat.

Prescribed Wildland Burning is allowed, with a permit, from March 1 through November 31. However, MCFPA usually suspends burning from mid-June through sometime in September because of fire safety concerns.



What it isn't

Most outdoor burning that occurs on improved properties is considered General Outdoor Burning. The General Outdoor Burning season runs from March 1 through August 31 (MCFPA usually closes it mid-June because of fire safety concerns.) While much of this burning reduces fire danger, it can ONLY qualify as Prescribed Wildland Burning if it takes place in a forested area and is part of a plan to create defensible space or improve forest habitat.

Prescribed Wildland Burning by homeowners must:

1. Take place in forested areas and
2. Be part of a plan to create defensible space or improve forest habitat.