

Burn Permit Information

What Types of Burning Require a Permit?

The burning of vegetative waste material, such as tree limbs, brush, grass, leaves, needle litter and stumps requires that you obtain a *Burn Permit* prior to burning. It may take 24 hours or more to process your application and issue a permit, so you need to plan ahead.

What Types of Burning Do Not Require a Permit?

The following types of fires are authorized without obtaining a permit, provided that no fire restrictions or red flag warnings are in place.

- Campfires: A campfire is defined as a fire that is used for recreational purposes, and may include small warming fires or ceremonial fires. It must be contained within a "campfire ring", and may not exceed 3 feet in diameter or 18 inches in height, or produce flame lengths greater than 4 feet. A campfire must be attended at all times, and completely extinguished before you leave.
- Barbecue or cooking fires for personal use.
- Fireplace or woodstoves for heating.

What are the Requirements to Obtain a Burn Permit?

- A *Burn Permit Application* may be obtained from any of the following:
 - Fire Department Office
 - Red River Dispatch Office
 - Red River Town Hall
 - Printed from the internet (web address)
- The application form must be filled out completely and signed by a person who has legal control of the property where the burn will take place.
- The location of the planned burn should be specified by street address, or GPS Latitude/Longitude coordinates. Sketch a simple map on the back of the form. Lot numbers are not an acceptable location description.
- The form should be returned to the Fire Department Office or Red River Dispatch. The application will be reviewed, and a site visit to inspect the proposed burn may be required.
- If your planned burn is within 300 feet of a neighbor's house that is occupied, you must obtain their permission.
- If all requirements have been met, a numbered permit will be issued, and you will be notified that it is available to be picked up. This permit must be in the possession of the person attending the burn at all times. You may not start burning before obtaining the permit.

What Do I Do When I Am Ready To Burn?

- You must call Red River Dispatch at 754-2333 prior to igniting your fire. Failure to do so will void your permit. Have your permit handy when you call, the dispatcher will ask for the permit number. And will inform you if it is OK to burn that day. If you burn on more than one day, you must call the Dispatch Office each day that you burn.

- Be sure that all of the precautions that you listed in your application are in place. Remember that **you are legally and financially responsible for an escaped fire.**
- You may not begin burning prior to 7:00 a.m.
- Your fire must be attended at all times by a responsible adult. If it becomes impossible to attend the fire, it must be completely extinguished.
- Your fire should be completely burned out or extinguished by 9:00 p.m.

What Should I Do If I Loose Control of My Fire?

- If you become concerned that you are losing control of your fire, call 911 immediately. It is true that you will be billed for the response, but the earlier you call, the less expensive it will be.

What is a "No Burn" Day?

- Each day, the Fire Department evaluates wildland fuel conditions, fire danger ratings and fire weather predictions in order to determine if it is appropriate to allow burning on that day. This information is posted in the Dispatch Office as a green "*OK To Burn*" or a red "*No Burn*" sign.
- At any time that formal *Fire Restrictions* are put in place, all Burn Permits that have been issued are suspended.

What Material May Not Be Burned?

- Household garbage and trash
- Construction waste (the only exception is clean, unpainted and untreated lumber)
- Railroad ties
- Plastics, including pipe, tubing and insulated wire
- Natural or synthetic rubber, including tires
- Waste oil or used oil filters

What Material is OK to Burn?

- Thinning and pruning slash, brush, tree limbs, leaves, needles, and grass.
- Wood waste, such as tree stumps, trees, limbs, and bark.

How Much Material May I Burn?

- The maximum volume of material that you may burn in one day is 1000 cubic feet (equivalent to a pile 10' x 10' x 10') or 10 acres for a landscape broadcast burn.

What Are The Penalties For Violating The Burn Permit Requirements?

- Failure to obtain and/or abide by the provisions of the Burn Permit process is a violation of the law, and is punishable by a fine of \$300 (Taos County) or \$500 (Town of Red River), up to 90 days in jail, or both. In addition, violation of State Environmental regulations may also incur penalties.
- You may also be held liable for the cost of extinguishing an unpermitted fire, and any damage to public or private property.