

Colfax County Fire Administration
Open Burning Instructions

The following instructions apply to planned burns within the Colfax County. Unless burning is specifically prohibited, persons planning an open burn (other than an approved camp fire or Bar-B-Que) should obtain an "Application for Open Burning" form and comply with the instructions here and on the next few pages. Remember that persons burning materials of any kind at any time are responsible for damage that may result because of the burning activity. In addition, persons involved in burning activity may be responsible for costs in extinguishing a fire that is out of control or, in the opinion of the Fire Department, is unsafe.

1. "Application for Open Burning" forms are available at Colfax County Fire Administration, 116 South 3rd St. Raton, NM 87740. They are also available online at www.co.colfax.nm.us.
2. Persons planning a burn should obtain the "Application For Open Burning" Form at least seven days prior to their planned burning date.
3. Complete the form and return it by one of the following means:
 - a. The most expeditious method of completing your application is to fax it to the Colfax County Fire Marshal's office at (505) 445-7154. A representative of the Fire Department will contact you and arrange for an inspection of the proposed burn site.
 - b. If you don't have access to a fax machine, applications can be dropped off at the Fire Administration Office, 116 South 3rd St., Raton, NM 87740.
4. The Fire Department representative will verify that the proposed burn site has met the following conditions:
 - a. Sufficient defensible space exists between the burn site and other flammable material.
 - b. There exists a continuous water supply capable of extinguishing the fire.
 - c. Minimum hand tools are on hand including a shovel and rake or shovel and hoe.
5. **Before igniting any fire, call the Fire Department Dispatch Office in Raton, at 505-445-2704 or in the Moreno Valley, Red River at 754-2333. Inform the dispatcher of your intentions. They will have a copy of your burn application on file.**

Colfax County Fire Administration
Open Burning Instructions

6. You are responsible for exercising reasonable judgment in determining that conditions are safe before beginning any burning. Remember that if in the opinion of the Fire Department your burn is unsafe for any reason, or if your burn causes damage to any other person's property, you may be liable for damages and costs associated with extinguishing the fire.

7. Once burning is underway, remember that at least one responsible person must be in attendance at all times. If you leave the fire for any reason, put it out. If the Fire Department observes your fire without someone in attendance, or without proper tools and preparation, we will put it out for you. You may be responsible for the costs of this service.

8. Please be aware that a burn ordinance is now in effect in Colfax County. Persons who violate provisions of this ordinance or State statute (Improper Handling of Fire) may be cited under both civil and criminal law.

Colfax County Fire Marshal's Office
P.O. Box 1498 Raton, New Mexico 87740
Phone: 505-445-8931 Fax 575-445-7154

APPLICATION AND PERMIT FOR OPENING BURNING

Property Owner: _____

Contact: _____ Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Mailing Address: _____
Street/PO City State Zip

Physical Location of Proposed Burn: _____

Number of Piles: _____ / _____ and/or _____ / _____ Tons/Acre
Total Maximum per day total Maximum per day

Type of Fuel _____

Has the location been prepared to control the burn? Yes _____ No _____

Distance to Adjacent Property: _____

Has suitable fire protection equipment been provided? Yes _____ No _____

Note: Suitable fire protection equipment means a water source capable of extinguishing the proposed fire, and appropriate hand tools to include a shovel and rake or hoe.

Does burn have the potential to impact a smoke-sensitive area? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, what is the type and name of sensitive areas identified? _____

Requirements: All burning must take place during the time period of one hour before sunrise to one hour before sunset. Winds must not take smoke over roads or toward human habitation. All burning must cease if atmospheric conditions create smoke stagnation or a dangerous condition which may spread the fire. Material to be burned must be dry and the amount of dirt on material to be burned must be minimized. No natural or synthetic rubber or petroleum products may be burned. The Fire Department must be notified at the start of the burn and upon completion. The burn MUST be attended at all times. The property owner and the individual conducting the burn will be held legally and financially accountable for any fire spread or damage resulting from the burn. **Please check weather conditions prior to igniting the fire. No burning will be permitted in wind conditions exceeding 20 miles per hour, or red flag conditions. Unless otherwise noted, the permit is valid for 30 days after signing.**

The District Fire Department and/or the County reserve the right to cancel this request at any time if the public interest warrants it. The holder of this permit is therefore cautioned and charged that he/she alone assumes full responsibility to exercise the utmost care and judgment before igniting fires. Colfax County hereby disclaims any and all liability of itself or it's agents that might be incurred by the petitioner's acts.

Signed _____ Date _____
Property Owner

Signed _____ Date _____
Fire Chief/Fire Marshal