

WHAT IS OPEN BURNING?

Open burning is the burning of unwanted materials, such as trees, leaves, grass, trash, etc. It allows smoke and other emissions to be released directly into outside air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF OPEN BURNING?

- ❑ Irritates eyes, nose and throat.
- ❑ Coughing.
- ❑ Breathing difficulty and headaches.
- ❑ Reduces visibility and creates nuisance odors.

People with asthma, heart disease, emphysema, or other respiratory illnesses are especially sensitive to air pollutants. Depending on the material being burned, pollutants may include particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and carbon monoxide as well as heavy metals and toxic chemicals.

WHAT MATERIALS CAN BE BURNED IN THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD?

- ❑ Brush
- ❑ Trees



DOES THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD REQUIRE A PERMIT FOR OPENING BURNING?

Yes. All open burning operations require a permit from the Springfield-Greene County Health Department, Air Quality Control Division.

WHAT REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET BEFORE APPLYING FOR AN OPEN BURNING PERMIT?

- ❑ A minimum of 4 acres or more is required for the open burning site.
- ❑ The brush pile shall be located a minimum of 100 yards from any adjacent street or property and 200 yards from nearest occupied structure.
- ❑ The neighboring property owners must sign a waiver for approval of open burning if the open burning pile is within 100 yards of property line or within 200 yards of nearest occupied structure.

Once the above requirements are met, applicants must contact the Air Quality Control Division at (417) 864-1662 to request a permit. The applicant must also provide the following information:

- ❑ Name, address and telephone number.
- ❑ Type of business or activity involved.
- ❑ Description of the proposed activity and type of material.
- ❑ Schedule of burning operations.
- ❑ Exact location where open burning will occur.

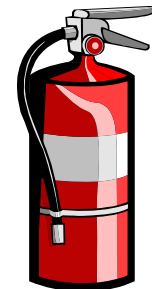
- ❑ Reason why burning is reasonably necessary for disposal.
- ❑ The applicant must provide evidence that the proposed open burning has been approved by the fire department.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- ❑ After an application is completed, a Springfield Air Quality Control Inspector will inspect the open burning site. If the site is approved then the inspector can issue the owner/contractor an open burning permit.
- ❑ A \$75 permit fee is due when the open burning permit is issued.

WHAT OTHER REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET FOR OPEN BURNING?

- ❑ Burning must take place between 6:00am – 4:00pm. Fire must be put out (extinguished) and covered with dirt at the end of each burn day.
- ❑ A responsible person must be in attendance with adequate fire extinguishing equipment during the burning process.
- ❑ The fire department must be called for daily burning approval before the material is ignited.



WHAT ARE THE ALTERNATIVES TO BURNING YARDWASTE?

- ❑ Yard waste (leaves, brush, grass clippings, woody trimmings) can easily be composted or mulched by homeowners into useful landscaping materials.
- ❑ Springfield and Greene County residents can drop off yard waste for recycling at the Yard Waste Recycling Center.
- ❑ The Springfield Sanitary Landfill accepts root balls and tree limbs over 6" in diameter.

For more information about The Yard Waste Recycling Center and how to compost in your own yard as well as other options for yard waste, call the Recycling Hotline at 417-864-1904 or visit either of the following websites:

www.springfieldmogov.org/recycling or
www.springfieldmogov.org/showmeyards.

OPEN BURNING PERMIT REGULATIONS

for the
City of Springfield, Missouri

Springfield-Greene County Health Department
Air Quality Control

For more information, contact
Springfield-Greene County Health Department
Air Quality Control at (417) 864-1662.



Springfield-Greene County
Health Department
Helping people live longer, healthier, happier lives

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