



UFC Reference 1102

Poudre Fire Authority Fire Prevention Bureau

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY 84-6

Poudre Fire Authority Open Burning Regulations

Inside the Restricted Open Burning Area

The Restricted Open Burning Area (shown on the map located at Poudre Fire Authority, which includes, but is not limited to the area within the boundaries of the City of Fort Collins) restricts the use of open burning for the protection of the urban area. True agricultural burning of irrigation ditches and fence rows, some slash burns, along with approved recreational fires are the only fires that may be allowed permits within the Restricted Open Burning Area. *Agricultural burning* is defined as the open burning of cover vegetation for the purpose of preparing soil for crop production, weed control, maintenance of water conveyance structures related to agricultural operations, and other agricultural purposes. *Recreational fires* are those fires that burn clean, dry wood or charcoal where the fuel is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, barbecue grill, or barbecue pit and with a total fuel area of three feet or less in diameter and two feet or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or other similar purposes. Discretion rests with the Fire Marshal concerning prescribed burns, slash burns, or other special situations that may arise inside the Restricted Open Burning Area.

Any burning in a portable, outdoor fireplace, barbeque grill, or chiminea using clean dry wood or charcoal for fuel and with a total fuel area of three feet or less in diameter and two feet or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, or other purposes is allowed without a permit from PFA. However, City Code section 20-1 prohibits smoke that endangers the health, safety, and comfort of the public. The use of improper fuel (such as leaves, grass, brush or branches) is a violation of PFA policy and regulation regarding burning in the Restricted Area.

Outside the Restricted Open Burning Area

Outside the Restricted Open Burning Area, a permit for open burning must be applied for and may be issued only when the open burning meets Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment State Air Quality Control Commission Regulation 9, Larimer County Department of Health and Environment rules, and Poudre Fire Authority codes, standards, regulations, and policies.

Burning of the following is prohibited by the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission, the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment, and the Poudre Fire Authority:

1. Routine yard and garden clean up such as grass clippings, leaves, yard waste, and old plants.
2. Construction debris, fencing, and furniture.
3. Structures, except for fire department training.
4. Household garbage both indoors and outdoors.
5. Commercial/business waste.
6. Any material that produces excessive smoke such as rubber, plastics, paper, and cardboard.
7. Treated wood or any hazardous material.

Slash burns will not be allowed when a reasonable alternative means of disposal exists. There will be discretion on the part of the PFA inspector. *Slash* is defined as clean dry branches four inches or less in diameter, not containing other smoke producing materials. Agricultural burning of fence rows and ditches outside the Restricted Open Burn Area require a permit.

Slash burning for wildland mitigation efforts in the mountains above 6400 feet shall be done during the winter months when good snow cover or damp conditions exist.

General Criteria

1. Fire Dispatch must be notified at **970-416-2600** on the day of and immediately before burning. Fire Dispatch must also be contacted upon completion of the burn.
2. Documented permission from the owner of the property or their agent must be acquired.
3. Fires must be constantly and physically attended by a competent and non-impaired person having appropriate extinguishing equipment available and ready for immediate use. The permit shall be in possession of the person attending the fire at all times during the burn.
4. There shall be no burning when current or expected winds exceed 10 miles per hour.
5. Items burned shall be 50 feet or more from any structure or combustible fence.
6. Items to be burned must be free of rubber, tires, plastics, wire insulation, household rubbish or refuse, paper, cardboard, furniture, construction debris, fencing, treated wood, grass, leaves, yard waste, or any other smoke producing material.
7. Burning hours are from sun-up to sundown and apply to all burns whether permitted or not unless the permit establishes otherwise. Fires must be extinguished by dark. Exceptions are cooking, recreational fires, and bonfires.
8. The above criteria apply to all burns including permit exempted agricultural burns.
9. Violation of Colorado State Statute, or the Uniform Fire Code is punishable under City of Fort Collins Ordinance 9-1 (UFC 1101.3) (referencing this regulation/policy "PFA Policy 84-6, violation of permit requirements, no permit as required or violation of open burn policy") or Larimer County Ordinance (32-1-1002(e) (d) and Colorado Revised Statutes 25-7-123(3), which sets fines at \$100 per day.

Prescribed Fires

These are fires intentionally used for grassland or forest management, including vegetative, habitat, or fuel management, regardless of whether fire is ignited by natural or human means. It includes area or broadcast burning. Prescribed fire does not include open burning in the course of agricultural operations and does not include open burning for the purpose of maintaining water conveyance structures. The Fire Authority must be provided with a burn plan prior to permit issuance. The Colorado Department of Health and Environment shall be contacted as to a smoke management plan prior to permit issuance. Approval by both agencies as well as the Larimer County Health Department is required.

Exceptions

The following are not considered open burning for which a permit is required:

1. Smokeless flares or safety flares for the combustion of waste gases.
2. Flares used to indicate danger.
3. Emissions from fireplaces, fire pits, chimeneas or other wood burning containers that have been approved and used for non-commercial, recreational, or aesthetic purposes using clean, dry, untreated wood or charcoal.
4. Cooking fires that are smaller than three feet in diameter and less than two feet high that are kindled for the purpose of cooking food using only clean, dry untreated wood or charcoal. All cooking fires shall be contained by fireplaces, fire pits (free standing and/or above ground), barbecues, or other systems approved by the Fire Marshal.

Alternative Methods of Disposal

Colorado Air Quality Control Commission Regulation 9 advises that open burning be allowed only when there is no practical alternate method for the disposal of the material to be burned. Alternative methods include transport to a landfill or to a business that takes organic material for recycling for a reasonable price. Convenience shall not be criteria for determining whether an alternative method exists.



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