



Capital City Fire / Rescue Fire Marshal's Office

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Development Open Burns

What is a "Development Burn"? A development burn is the burning of uprooted or cleared trees, stumps, shrubbery, or other natural vegetation in connection with the construction of buildings; right-of-way; residential, commercial, or industrial development; mining activities; or initial clearing of vegetation to enhance property value. Absolutely no man-made material may be burned.

All persons wanting to proceed with a development burn must complete an Application for Development Burn Permit, detailing the site conditions of the proposed burning and acknowledging an understanding of the conditions under which this activity will be performed. This application must be completed and submitted to the City & Borough of Juneau. After an initial review of the application, payment of fees must be made at the Juneau Permit Center. A site visit will be conducted prior to granting approval of the Development Burn Permit.

Burn Period: A development burn permit is good for a specific time frame and for a single burn event. You are required to daily monitor public announcements or postings by City & Borough of Juneau, US National Weather Service and the Fire Marshal's Office on open burning restrictions

Restrictions on Burn Periods: Open burning is prohibited in Lemon Creek and Mendenhall Valley from November 1 through March 31. This smoke hazard areas stretch from Mountainside Estates to the center of the Mendenhall Peninsula and include the airport and Industrial Boulevard areas. No open burning shall be done during the declared period of impaired air quality or during a discontinuance of open burning by the CBJ. Burning conditions and restrictions should be checked each day before burning.

Burning is prohibited if wind exceeds 15 mph, and during any burn ban. A pile to be burned in the vicinity of an occupied structure may be required to meet more restrictive wind speed conditions.

What can be burned? All outdoor fires shall be restricted to natural vegetation, such as uprooted or cleared trees, stumps, shrubbery, or other natural occurring vegetation. Absolutely no man-made material may be burned. Open burning of rubbish or trash is prohibited. All other material is prohibited except what paper is necessary to ignite the burning process.

How large a fire? Fires shall be limited to natural vegetation piles with outside dimensions of no greater than 20' x 20'.

Responsibility – Remember, YOU are responsible for your fire, and the smoke that it creates.

A permit to burn does not relieve the permittee from full responsibility for the fire. Fines may be assessed for violations or repeated visits to burn sites. The Fire Marshal or his designee may assess a fine if there are violations of the above conditions or if there are repeated visits by fire personnel. The Fire Marshal or his designee may revoke an open burn permit at any time.

Development Burn Checklist

Submit an *Application for Development Burn Permit*

Submit payment to the Juneau Permit Center for a Development Open Burn Permit.

Schedule an inspection of the burn site.

Notify both CBJ Division of Lands & Resources and CCFR Fire Marshal's Office the day prior to burning.

Check the weather conditions or any air advisories, that would restrict open burning.

Equipment required on site:

Excavator and/or dozer to control fire, 300 gallon (minimum) water pump/trailer

Minimum 1 fan rated at 500 CFM, and pipe to aid combustion

Standard Conditions and Requirements for Development Open Burn Permit

Land-clearing permits may be revoked at any time. A permit to burn does not relieve the permittee from full responsibility for the fire; including costs of extinguishment should it spread, costs of damage to other property.



AIR QUALITY (CBJ Title 36 Health & Sanitation)

Requirements for OPEN BURNING SHALL be Followed:

Permit: No person may engage in the open burning of any material except as authorized by a valid open burning permit. *CBJ 36.40.060 (a)*

Mendenhall Valley/Lemon Creek: No permit may be issued for open burning in the Mendenhall Valley or the Lemon Creek smoke hazard areas during the period of November 1 through March 31. *CBJ 36.40.060 (a)*

Permit Validity: Open burning permits shall be valid only for the times and locations specified in the permit. Permits shall be issued only when weather conditions or smoke conditions are not such as to cause the burning to be, or be likely to become, a danger to the public health or generally objectionable. The manager or the manager(s) designee may base such determination upon direct observation or upon reports or forecasts from other agencies. *CBJ 36.40.060 (a)*

Air Movement: A person may engage in open burning only if the fire is tended to at all times; the prevailing wind direction is away from any structure or roadway; and the open burn is conducted during a period of adequate air movement. *CBJ 36.40.060 (c)*

Smoke: When burning land-clearing debris, slash piles must be loosely stacked to promote maximum combustion efficiency throughout the burn cycle. Noncombustible material must be minimized so as to not cause or create dense smoke. The manager or the manager's designee may, at their discretion, require the use of fans to promote enhanced combustion. *CBJ 36.40.060 (d)*

Public Health: No person may cause or allow open burning which creates a danger to public health or safety or a public or private nuisance. *CBJ 36.40.060 (e)*

Prohibited Materials: No person may cause or allow the open burning of asphalt, rubber, plastic, tar, wire insulation, petroleum products, automobile parts, petroleum-treated products, treated lumber, oily waste, contaminated oil cleanup materials, or other materials in a way that produces black smoke; or of putrescible garbage, animal carcasses, or petroleum-based materials. *CBJ 36.40.060 (e)*

Prohibited Open Burning: Open burning by commercial businesses is not allowed. *CBJ 36.40.060 (a)*

Penalties: Violation of any of the above air quality requirements is a violation, subject to a civil fine. *CBJ 36.40.090 (a)*



FIRE DANGER / FIRE SPREAD PREVENTION

Requirements for DEVELOPMENT OPEN BURNING shall be followed:

Wind/Fire Spread Danger: Open burning SHALL be prohibited when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous. (*International Fire Code 307.1.1*)

Attendance: Open burning SHALL be constantly attended until the fire is completely extinguished. (*International Fire Code 307.5*)

Equipment: Applicant SHALL have at least one fan capable of 500 CFM of airflow shall be employed during land clearing burning. Applicant SHALL have a water pump truck/trailer with a minimum of 300 gallons of water may be required to be on site while burning. Applicant SHALL have heavy equipment (excavator and/or dozer) on site and shall be operated by a qualified person. Applicant SHALL have a person and equipment capable of controlling and extinguishing the fire shall be in constant attendance at the site while burning.

Maximum pile size is twenty (20) feet in diameter. Applicant SHALL have bare earth clearance at least equal to the pile diameter. A development open burn pile shall be a minimum of one hundred (100) feet from any structure and fifty (50) feet from any brush, trees, or standing timber. (as measured out from the edge of the pile in all directions)

Permit: Applicant SHALL maintain a valid development burn permit onsite at all times when open burning is conducted