Fauquier County
Open Burning Laws

PURPOSE
"...To protect the public health, safety and welfare by regulating open burning within the county of Fauquier..."
Chapter 9 of the Fauquier County Code

THE "4:00 PM" BURN LAW
During the period between February 15th and ending April 30th of each year, open burning may only take place between the hours of 4:00 PM and 12:00 midnight.

PERMIT REQUIREMENT
A permit is required when open burning for the purpose of land or site clearing operations. This permit may obtained from the Department of Fire Rescue and Emergency Management at (540) 422-8800

PROHIBITED OPEN BURNING
The burning of garbage, refuse, trash, rubbish and other forms of liquid or solid waste is prohibited at all times.

RESIDENTIAL BURNING
The burning of wood, brush, grass trimmings or leaves is permitted in all areas of the County, provided the following conditions are met:

1. The fire must be a minimum of 50 feet from any structure and be 300 feet from any occupied dwelling you MUST have written permission those who occupy those dwellings; AND
2. You MUST constantly attend the fire at all times; AND
3. Burning MUST be conducted in such a fashion as to minimize any nuisance to neighbors.

OPEN BURNING FOR LAND AND SITE CLEARING
Open burning for land and site clearing operations resulting from commercial, industrial, or residential development is only permitted after obtaining a permit from the Fauquier County Department of Fire Rescue and Emergency Management. They may be reached at (540) 422-8800

Open burning for these purposes is permitted in all other areas of the County, provided certain conditions are compiled with, as required by the Department of Fire Rescue and Emergency Management.

RECREATIONAL FIRES
Bonfires and campfires are permitted if the fuel consists only of seasoned dry hardwood, ignited with a small quantity of paper. Fires will be no more than 5 feet by 5 feet in dimension and will not burn more than 3 hours at any one time. At no time shall bonfires or campfires be used for waste disposal purposes.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR LEAF BURNING
- Burn only dry leaves. Wet leaves produce unnecessary smoke generation.
- Burn only small piles no more than 3 feet wide and 2 feet tall. Large, long piles do not completely burn.
- Never use gas, lighter fluid or any other fuel to kindle or rekindle a fire. If the leaves need fuel to burn, they are too wet to burn and may create potential for injury.
- Start the fire in your leaf pile against the wind. This will allow the fire to burn slower and burn deeper into the leaf pile.
- Keep small children away from the fire and out of the smoke.
- Keep a garden hose handy in case of sudden, uncontrolled fire spread.

NOTIFICATION REQUIRED
Open burning may only take place after those wishing to burn have notified the Fauquier County Sheriff’s Office Communications Center at (540) 347-1313
For More Information please visit...
www.fauquierfirerescue.org
Or call (540)422-8800

Definitions:

BONFIRE
An outdoor fire used for ceremonial purposes.

SITE & LAND CLEARING
The process of clearing land of trees, brush and other debris for the purpose of making way for streets, roads and/or buildings.

GARBAGE
Animal and vegetable matter such as that originating in houses, kitchens, restaurants and hotels or produce markets which is accumulated in the course of ordinary day-to-day living.

RECREATIONAL BURNING
An outdoor fire which is used to cook food for human consumption, such as camp fires, warming fire and bonfires.

REFUSE
Trash, rubbish, garbage and other forms of solid or liquid waste, including but not limited to wastes resulting from residential, agricultural, commercial, industrial, institutional trade, construction, land clearing, forest management and emergency operations.

OPEN BURNING REGULATIONS

FAUVIER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FIRE, RESCUE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT