



*C*itizens' Guide to *O*utdoor Burning Regulations

*Campbell County Public Safety
Office of the Fire Marshal*

2012



CITIZENS' GUIDE TO BURNING REGULATIONS

Throughout the year citizens often choose to conduct open burning for various purposes. Understanding local burning ordinances can ensure outdoor fires are ignited and maintained safely and legally.

What is Open Burning?

“Open Burning” is the burning of unwanted materials, such as paper, trees, brush, leaves, grass, and other debris, where smoke and other emissions are released directly into the air. Because of the problems and risks created by this activity, state and local laws prohibit open burning of many materials. The following items are not permitted for open burning in Campbell County:

- Tires
- Used Oil
- Coated/Insulated Wires
- Asphaltic Materials
- Roofing Shingles
- Hazardous Wastes/Waste Containers
- Animal Carcasses/Animal Waste
- Petroleum Based Materials
- Garbage (readily discarded materials composed of animal or vegetable matter)
- Impregnated or Treated Wood
- Batteries

Burning Permits



No permits are required by homeowners for the open burning of tree and yard wastes. However, to reduce the unnecessary response of fire units, homeowners and others

conducting open burning are asked to notify the Campbell County Communications Center at (434) 332-9574, 283-9574, or 592-9574, conveying the date, time and location of the burn.

Burning of Land-Clearing Debris (Major Burning – (Construction or Commercial))

Open burning is permitted on-site for debris waste resulting from property maintenance or development/modifications of:

- roads and highways
- parking areas
- railroad tracks
- pipelines
- power and communication lines
- buildings or building areas
- sanitary landfills
- or from any other approved clearing operations, provided the following conditions are met:



- ◇ the material to be burned consists of brush, stumps and similar debris waste that originated on-site and does not include demolition material;
- ◇ if the burn is located in or adjacent to a residentially-zoned area, the burning must be at least 300' from any occupied building, unless the occupants have given prior permission;
- ◇ the location of the burn is not located within the rights-of-way of highways (including ditch lines);
- ◇ the location of the burn is not within 150' of railroad tracks and airfields;
- ◇ the burn site must be attended at all times (unless an area of no less than 300' around the fire is free of combustibles);
- ◇ the burn is not allowed to smolder beyond the minimum period of time necessary to completely destroy the materials;
- ◇ the burn is conducted only when the prevailing winds are away from any town or built-up area;
- ◇ if a water source is not available, a tractor or other equipment must be present on-site to control the fire.

Call Campbell County
Public Safety
Communications Center
at
(434) 332-9574,
283-9574, or
592-9574.
if preparing to
conduct an open burn.

Campbell County Public Safety

(434) 332-9574, 283-9574, 592-9574 (Communications Center)

(434) 332-9540, 283-9540, 592-9540 (Public Safety Office)

P.O. Box 500

Rustburg, VA 24588

www.campbellcountyva.gov

One County, One Mission, One Call Away



Burning of Grass Clippings, Leaves and Yard Debris (Minor Burning – Residential in Nature)

Open burning is permitted on-site for the destruction of leaves, and tree/yard/garden trimmings, provided that these conditions are met:

- the burning takes place on the premises of the private property where the debris originated;
- if the burning is located in or adjacent to a residentially-zoned area, the burning must be at least 300' from any occupied building, unless the occupants have given prior permission;
- the location of the burning is not located within the rights-of-way of highways (including ditch lines);
- the burn must be attended at all times and have a water source.



Burning regulations may be found in Campbell County Code, Division D; section 10: 41 at www.campbellcountyva.gov. The County Code "quick link" is in the left hand column.

For convenience, consent form templates are available by visiting www.campbellcountyva.gov (under the Departments tab, select Public Safety, click on the Files & Forms link).

General Guidelines

In all other areas and in areas where permission has been given to burn, burning must be no less than fifty feet (50') from any structure, nor be allowed to spread to within fifty feet (50') of any structure. Citizens may reference the County Code (section D: 10-41) for specifics regarding container burning.

In all areas of the County:

- At least one approved on-site fire extinguishing material or piece of equipment must be available for use on-site (i.e. dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose, water truck, or portable fire extinguisher(s) of minimum required rating).
- Any person who builds a fire in the open air, or uses a fire built by another in the open air, within one hundred fifty (150) feet of any woodland, brushland or field containing dry grass or other inflammable material, must totally extinguish the fire before leaving the area.
- Burning must be done between 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise restricted by state or local regulations.

Open Burning Bans

The Campbell County Board of Supervisors and the County Fire Marshal may prohibit burning in certain areas or may require the immediate extinguishment of such burning when the burning will be or has become offensive, hazardous, or objectionable due to excessive smoke or offensive odors, or otherwise, due to local circumstances or atmospheric conditions. Violations of any provision of this document excluding 4PM Burn Law may be found guilty of a Class 1 Misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2,500) or by imprisonment of not more than twelve (12) months. For more information on burning ordinances, contact the Campbell County Fire Marshal's Office at (434) 332-9540, 283-9540, or 592-9540 or visit www.campbellcountyva.gov. For fire prevention resources and fire-safety tips, click the Emergency Preparedness quick link.

Agriculture Exemptions

Open burning for forest management and agriculture practices, approved by the Virginia Air Pollution Control Board, are exempt from Campbell County's open burning regulations.

Burning of Building Materials

Air quality and solid waste regulations prohibit open burning of construction and demolition waste as chemically-treated lumber/synthetic and painted building materials contain high concentrations of hazardous compounds that produce toxic emissions when burned.

Burning of Buildings

Structures to be demolished by intentional burning are subject to State and Federal regulations. Virginia air quality regulations only allow buildings to be intentionally burned for the purpose of fire department training. Federal law requires that all asbestos be removed from any building (residential and non-residential) prior to authorized burning. For more information contact the Campbell County Fire Marshal's Office or Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Campfires (including Chimineas and Fire Pits)

Air quality regulations allow the burning of logs, brush, charcoal and other similar materials for the purpose of food preparation, recreation, ceremonial occasions, and warming of outdoor workers. These types of fires (in approved containers) should be at least fifteen (15) feet from an occupied building.

Open Burning Alternatives

- Composting of yard waste and using leaves/grass clippings for mulch is a simple and practical alternative to burning. Natural yard debris can also be deposited at the Campbell County Landfill (427 Livestock Road, off of Route 29 across from Foster Fuels).
- Recycling of plastics, cardboard, paper, metals, etc. in your area can likewise minimize the need to burn. Donate reusable items to charitable organizations, families, or friends; dispose of other unwanted items at the Campbell County Landfill.

Virginia Forestry Burning Laws

All citizens must comply with yearly open burning restrictions as required by the Virginia Department of Forestry. The Virginia 4 PM Burn Law is in effect from Feb. 15 - April 30, annually. Contact the Virginia Department of Forestry at (434) 332-9544, 283-9544, or 592-9544 or visit www.dof.virginia.gov for details.

Contacts and Resources:

Campbell County Public Safety/Fire Marshal
(434) 332-9540, 283-9540, or 592-9540

<http://www.campbellcountyva.gov/depts/publicsafety>

Virginia Cooperative Extension, Rustburg

Composting Information

(434) 332-9538, 283-9538, or 592-9538

<http://www.ext.vt.edu/>