

Burning Permit Information

Burning is a big decision:

Burning dead vegetation can be very hazardous. If the burning is done incorrectly, the consequences can be the loss of life and property.

Each year more and more wildfires destroy homes and cause fatalities. The problem will continue as long as people live in rural settings.

An escaped debris burn can result in a devastating fire, so it's very important to think of the consequences before striking a match.

When can I burn?

March 1st to November 30th

Lewis and Clark and Jefferson Counties have established an open burning season from March 1st through November 30th. A burning permit is required. Also make sure there are no air quality restrictions.

State Air Quality Bureau
1-800-225-6779

September 1st to November 30th

During the months of September, October and November, air quality standards must also be met, Contact the

Ventilation Hotline
1-800-225-6779

December 1st to February 29th

Burning in December, January and February is generally prohibited. For further information on burning during this time and on air quality variances, call

(406) 444-3490

Large burns, firefighter training burns, trade waste burns and commercial film production burns require a permit from:

Department Of Environmental Quality
1520 East Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, Montana 59601-0901
(406) 444-3490

March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February
Open Burning Season						Air Quality Standards			Burning Generally Prohibited		

Where Do I Obtain A Burning Permit?

Lewis and Clark County

In Lewis and Clark County, the Helena National Forest Supervisor's Office issues burning permits between **8:00 am and 4:00 pm Monday through Friday, excluding State and Federal holidays.**

A burning permit may be obtained by a telephone call to the Helena National Forest Supervisor's Office, at the telephone number listed below. The caller may pick up the permit in person, or have the permit mailed. Please allow 3 to 6 working days for delivery.

**Helena National Forest
2880 Skyway Drive
Helena Montana 59601
(406) 449-5201**

In The Lincoln Area

To obtain a burning permit in the Lincoln area (School District 38)

During the period from May 1 through September 30 a person must obtain a permit from the Lincoln Department of Natural Resources and Conservation or the Lincoln Forest Service Office. During the period from December 1 through February 28 a person must obtain documentation from the State of Montana Department of Environmental Quality authorizing burning during that period. During the periods from March 1 through April 30 and from October 1, through November 30 no permit shall be required.

Lincoln Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
1569 Highway 200
Lincoln, Mt. 59639
(406) 362-4999

Lincoln Forest Service Office
7269 Highway 200
Lincoln, Mt. 59639
362-4265

Jefferson County

In Jefferson County you must go to one of the locations (listed below) No permits will be issued by mail.

In North Jefferson County

Marks – Miller Post and Pole
15 Lump Gulch Road, Clancy Mt. 59634
(406) 933-5981

Montana City Store
1 Jackson Creek Rd, Montana City, Mt. 59634
(406) 443-0150

In South Jefferson County

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
110 South Washington, Boulder Mt. 59632

(406) 225-4075

Jefferson Ranger District
3 Whitetail Road, Whitehall, Mt.59759
(406) 287-3223

Whitehall Police Department
208 West First Street, Whitehall Mt. 59759
(406) 287-3322

Elk Park
Contact Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
(406) 225-4075

****Keep In Mind, Before You Start Burning****

You must have a valid burning permit in your possession *before igniting* any debris burning fire.

You must call the phone number(s) that are listed as required calls, shown on your permit, prior to any ignition. The call or calls must be made every time you activate your burning permit.

Open burning is subject to cancellation at any time due to:

- Existing weather conditions
- Predicted weather conditions
- Fire activity, etc

Open burning cancellation is one of the reasons that you are required to call every time your permit is activated.

Failure to secure and have the burning permit in your possession and/or failure to make the required telephone call(s) may result in:

- A citation being issued to you
- A fire suppression agency responding unnecessarily to your fire
- A law enforcement officer responding to your fire
- Being billed for fire agencies responding to your fire

If your fire escapes, keep in mind that you may be liable for fire suppression costs and damages suffered by your neighbors

Burning Basics

Weather Forecast and Conditions

(406) 443-5151

1. Put dry debris in small piles so the fire will be hot, yet manageable. Wet or dirt – covered materials will cause fires to smolder and emit more smoke.
2. Build piles in openings away from overhead branches and wires.
3. Scrape away debris and any other burnable materials several feet around the piles to be burned. The result should be bare soil around each pile.
4. Keep water and tools ready in case of unexpected changes in the fire or the weather.
5. Light the fire when you have an update on safe burning conditions.
6. Stay with your fire until it is out. Hidden embers thought to be out have ignited many expensive fires.
7. Burn only natural vegetation and woody materials. State law prohibits the burning of animal droppings, garbage, dead animals, tires, oil, and/or other toxic materials.