

BURNING CHECKLIST

You can reduce the chance of a fire getting out of control by taking these easy precautions:

- Be sure your fireguards are wide enough and free of burnable material. Watch for spot fires that start from sparks from your fire. Large fires can carry sparks over a considerable distance.
- Have tools ready at the fire site and enough portable water to handle the size of the fire. Even when burning a small single pile you should have a shovel and water nearby.
- If you have several brush piles, light only as much as you can keep under control. Check to see if any neighbors will be available in case you need extra help and equipment.
- Don't burn under windy, gusty conditions. Whenever possible, plan your burn for late in the day (after 6:00 p.m.). You should still have adequate burning time and should anything go wrong, the cooler evening will help you regain control.
- When your burn is completed, speed up final extinguishing by dispersing any smoldering ash or accumulation of burned debris. Fires can remain dormant in large piles for long periods and usually surface when fire hazard conditions are extreme.
- Persistent hot spots, left to burn out must be well guarded. When the weather gets dry, any holdover fire must be put out. Continue to check any completed burns to ensure no holdover fires are present. Probe and stir burned areas to ensure they are out.
- If you are having difficulty putting out a holdover fire, do not hesitate to call your local fire department for assistance.

BURNING ON AGRICULTURAL LAND

Those who wish to burn brush or debris after land clearing or other agricultural activities on private property must obtain a fire permit from March 1 – October 31 and follow special regulations.

- No fire can be lit for broadcast burning of grass or stubble without first obtaining a fire permit.
- In preparation for burning, debris or windrows from land clearing must be no more than 60 meters long with an 8 meter break between each 60 meter length.
- The area being burned must be completely surrounded by a 15 meter fireguard consisting of mineral soil.
- No windrows may be closer than 25 meters to uncleared land or standing hazardous fuels.
- Windrows must be separated from other parallel windrows by at least 15 meters.
- Every fire must be controlled by a responsible person or persons.
- Have adequate equipment at the fire site to control the fire and possibly extinguish if necessary.



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Wildfire Prevention

LACOMBE COUNTY

FIRE PERMITTING SYSTEM



WHERE PEOPLE ARE THE KEY

WHEN TO GET A PERMIT:

Other than a campfire or a burn barrel, any open fire must have a burn permit from March 1– October 31

WHERE TO GET A PERMIT:

Permits are available by phone, in person or on-line from the County Office. Contact numbers are available on the County's web page.

YOU MUST ADHERE STRICTLY TO PERMIT CONDITIONS

Under the Forest and Prairie Protection Act, you may be held responsible for fire suppression costs or any penalties that occur as a result of burning without a permit, or failing to comply with the conditions stated on your fire permit.

PERMIT CANCELLATIONS

The County Commissioner, for the purpose of fire control, may suspend or cancel all permits or prohibit the lighting of fires in any part of Lacombe County. The general public may be notified of suspension or cancellation of fire permits or forest closures through print, radio or television or by telephone.

Upon suspension or cancellation of any permit, the permit holder must immediately extinguish any fire set according to his permit.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

In Lacombe County, fire permits are required during the fire season, which starts March 1st and ends October 31st each year. The fire season can be extended if the risk or danger of wildfire exists.

Before lighting any fire, a permit holder must take precautions to ensure that the fire is kept under control at all times. The following rules apply to all permits issued in Lacombe County:

- A fire permit is valid only for the period that it is issued for.
- Upon issuing a permit, the County may specify any special fire control condition that, in their discretion, is important to the safety of the county residents.

- The fire must be set at the time and place indicated on the permit.
- The number of fires set at one time and minimum equipment needed may be specified on the permit.
- Anyone who sets a fire under the authority of a permit must:
 - Have a the permit at the fire site
 - Produce and show the permit to a County employee on request
 - Keep the fire under control, and
 - Extinguish the fire before expiration, or upon cancellation of the permit, or obtain a renewal.

SAFE BURNING PRACTICES

A fire permit is a legal document that authorizes a person to burn debris at a time specified on the permit. By obtaining a fire permit, you have indicated your intention to burn and are responsible for conducting a safe burn.

Fires must not be lit when weather conditions are conducive to fires escaping or getting out of control. No one may deposit, discard or leave any burning material in a place where it may ignite and result in a fire.

Check all burning carried out in the winter for hold-over fires prior to March 1st every year:

- Walk the burn area
- Roll debris over to check for hot spots
- Probe burned area to ensure no hot spots
- Stir the debris
- Water down and extinguish hot spots.

PROHIBITED DEBRIS FOR BURNING

Prohibited debris means any combustible waste that when burned, may result in release to the atmosphere of dense smoke, offensive odours or toxic substances and includes but is not limited to:

- Animal manure,
- Pathological waste,
- Non-wooden material,
- building construction waste excluding wooden, materials not containing preservatives
- combustible materials in automobile bodies,
- tires,
- rubber or plastic, or anything coated with rubber or plastic or similar substances except rubber or plastic attached to shredded scrap steel,
- used oil, or
- wood or wood products containing preservatives

BURNABLE DEBRIS

Burnable debris means all combustible waste other than prohibited debris and includes but is not limited to:

- straw and stubble,
- grass and weeds,
- leaves and tree pruning's,
- brush and fallen trees on newly cleared land or associated with logging operations,
- used power, telegraph and telephone poles not containing preservatives,
- wooden materials not containing preservatives from construction or demolition of buildings,
- solid waste from saw or planing mills with annual production less than 9500 cubic meters of lumber,
- solid waste from post and pole operations not containing preservatives, or
- solid waste from tree harvesting operations.