

AGRICULTURAL BURNING PERMIT PROTOCOL

Prior to Planning a Burn:

1. Utilize all practical alternatives to minimize the need to burn.
WAC 173-400-020(1) states that agricultural burning is only allowed when no practical alternative is reasonably available. Permits will not be issued if a reasonable practical alternative is available.
2. Submit a completed Agricultural Burning Permit Application and pay the appropriate fee.
WAC 173-400-040(3) states that agricultural burning (except for orchard prunings, ditchbanks, fencelines and organic debris blown by wind) requires a permit. Submitting a complete permit application begins the process. The following information must be provided:
 - a. Grower name and contact information;
 - b. The crop type and reason for each burn;
 - c. The specific location of each burn;
 - d. The target date for each burn;
 - e. The quantity of material to be burned in acres, cubic yards or number and size of piles;
 - f. The signature of a person responsible for all burning under the permit; and
 - g. Pay the fee, based on the quantity of material planned to be burned. If more material is burned an invoice will be issued for the additional amount. If less material is burned a refund will be issued provided the refund subtracted from the amount paid is not less than the minimum fee required (\$50 for orchard removal and \$25 for all others).
3. Receive approval of the Permit Application.
WAC 173-400-040(3) states that the permit application must be approved prior to any burning. YRCAA will generally approve the application, if the burning is reasonably necessary, at the time of receiving a complete application. If an application is denied, the fee will not be accepted or the fee will be returned and the reason(s) for denial will be stated. Permit Application approval does not constitute permission to conduct burning. Permission to burn must be obtained for the day the burning is to be conducted. See Prior to Burning, for Each Day, below.
4. Allow the material to dry before burning. The minimum required drying time is 30 days once the material is removed from the ground or, for material burned in place, after the material has become dormant. Please note that material should be allowed to dry as long as possible to avoid creating an unreasonable interference with the use and enjoyment of nearby property. This is a violation, subject to enforcement, including civil penalty.
5. For materials burned in piles, arrange piles, or plan to feed a single pile with material from other piles, so as to burn hot and promote complete combustion.

Prior to Burning, for Each Day:

1. Determine the burn status. Do not burn during an impaired air quality event burn ban or an air pollution episode burn ban.
2. Call YRCAA and receive expressed permission to burn a specific quantity of material, in a specific location, on a specific day. Burn allocations are given one day prior to burning. Air quality and dispersion conditions change rapidly and the amount of materials allowed changes from day to day. If a burn ban is present, this step may be eliminated since no burning is allowed.

If burning is allowed:

3. Call Fire Dispatch: Upper County 509-248-2103; Lower County 509-865-4202.
4. Inspect the material to be burned and remove any material which is prohibited (see 2 below); and
5. Do not burn during unsafe burning conditions, including but not limited to, high winds, dry surroundings, proximity to structures and high temperatures.

During the Burning:

1. Burn only during daylight hours. Plan and manage all burning to be concluded by sunset. Concluded or “out” for woody materials, means no visible smoke coming from the fire and coals are ashed over.
2. Burn only natural vegetation. It is prohibited to burn garbage, dead animals, asphalt, liquid petroleum products, paints, rubber products, plastics, paper, cardboard, treated wood, construction debris, metal, or any substance which normally emits dense smoke or obnoxious odors.
3. Attend the fire at all times and promote complete combustion. Attending the fire means, being in close enough proximity so as to be aware of the fire creating nuisance smoke or getting out of control. Fires must be managed to minimize the quantity of smoke being caused.
4. If needed, kindle the fire with clean, dry, untreated wood. If the material cannot be burned without creating an unreasonable quantity of smoke, the material should be kindled with enough dry material to cause the fire to burn hotter and minimize the quantity of smoke.
5. If needed, accelerate the fire with propane or other gaseous fuel (do not use diesel or other liquid fuel). If the Material cannot be burned without creating an unreasonable quantity of smoke, the material should be accelerated to cause the fire to burn hotter and minimize the quantity of smoke.
6. If needed, use fans to force air into and around the material. If the material cannot be burned without creating an unreasonable quantity of smoke, air should be forced into the fire to cause the fire to burn hotter and minimize the quantity of smoke.
7. Do not burn more material than the quantity allocated for any day. Each day permission is given by YRCAA to burn a specific quantity of material at a specific location.
8. Comply with local fire district notification and fire safety requirements. Be aware of any expectations of local fire districts and meet those expectations. Also, comply with any fire safety burn bans.
9. Extinguish any fire found to create a nuisance or a detriment to health, safety or welfare of any person.

After Burning:

1. Provide completion notice to YRCAA no less than ten working days after completing burning at each location. This may be done by phone, fax, email, in person or mail.
2. Pay any additional fees for burning not paid for at time of application. Once all burning has been completed, if the total quantity burned causes the permit fee to increase, an invoice will be issued, payable upon receipt.

Additional Conditions:

Additional conditions may be applied to any permit if the application could not otherwise be approved without the additional conditions. An example is an application to conduct burning in close proximity to a school could only be approved if the burning is conducted during times when the school is not in session.