

NEWS | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | April 7, 2025

North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality Reminds Residents of Open Burning Regulations

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) is reminding residents to follow state regulations surrounding open burning, especially as drought conditions persist throughout much of the state. These rules are in place to protect public safety, reduce environmental risks, and minimize wildfire hazards.

Prescribed Burns Require Prior Approval

Individuals planning to conduct prescribed burns, such as those for wildlife habitat improvement or land management, must obtain written approval from NDDEQ. Prescribed burning is regulated under state law. More details can be found on the [NDDEQ Open Burning Webpage](#).

Household Waste Burning Regulations

Burning household waste is only permitted under specific conditions:

- The property generates no more than one family's waste.
- The burning occurs on the property where the waste was generated.
- The property does not have municipal waste collection services.

Open Burning and the Law

Open burning is regulated under the North Dakota Air Pollution Control Rules ([Chapter 33.1-15-04](#)). Residents are encouraged to review these regulations to avoid fines and ensure compliance. Details are available on the [NDDEQ's website](#).

Burning of Houses and Buildings

Property owners must follow these steps before burning buildings:

- **Residential buildings:** Obtain an open burning variance from NDDEQ or your local public health unit, and submit photos of the structure.
- **Commercial or city-owned properties:** Submit a [Notice of Demolition](#), conduct an asbestos inspection, and dispose of hazardous materials. Photos of the structure are also required.
- **Fire department training:** Fire departments must submit a Notice of Demolition, perform an asbestos inspection, and properly dispose of hazardous materials.

Prohibited Materials and Special Circumstances

The following materials are prohibited for burning due to their hazardous environmental impact:

- Tires
- Tar paper
- Asphalt shingles
- Plastics
- Chemically treated wood

Burning of hydrocarbons (e.g., oil) is only allowed if the material cannot be recovered or disposed of otherwise. Prior approval must be obtained by applying for [Approval to Burn Liquid Hydrocarbons](#) to NDDEQ.

Additional Burn Requirements

Even with a burn variance, individuals must:

- Check for local burn restrictions and bans.
- Monitor fire danger ratings and red flag warnings.
- Follow emergency declarations. Up-to-date conditions can be found at ndresponse.gov. Residents must also notify local fire departments and emergency management offices before burning.

Community Awareness and Safety

Although not required, NDDEQ encourages residents to notify their neighbors before conducting an open burn. This helps ensure safety and community awareness.

Certain activities, such as campfires, outdoor cooking fires, and agricultural crop burning, do not require a burn variance. However, local burn restrictions must still be followed.

For more information, visit NDDEQ's open burning webpage at [NDDEQ Open Burning Webpage](#) or contact your local fire department or emergency management office.

For more information contact:

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