

LOUDOUN COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

OPEN BURNING REGULATIONS & 4 P.M. BURNING LAW OF 2012



Effective **February 15, 2012** through **midnight April 30, 2012**, open air fires are prohibited between 2400 and 1600 hours (§10.1-1142, Code of Virginia and Section 307.1 of the Loudoun County Fire Prevention Code).

Open air fires for leaves, grass and brush are allowed between 1600 and 2400 hours, **except** in the town limits of Middleburg, Leesburg, Purcellville, Round Hill, Lovettsville and Subdivisions (urban or built up areas) throughout the county.

Legally set open air fires are subject to all local regulations. Specifically:

- Fires must be reported to the ECC at 703-777-0637 before ignition and when the fire is out.
- Fires shall be attended by competent persons over the age of 18 yrs, at all times, with provisions for control available, and must not be added to after 2400 hours.
- If at any time the fire is not attended and/or a means of extinguishment not immediately available, it must be fully extinguished.
- Legally set fires are allowed to smolder between 2400 and 1600 hours provided they are appropriately attended with means for extinguishment, and no additional fuel load is added during this timeframe.

Prohibited Open Burning

- On a year round basis, open burning is always prohibited in the town limits of Middleburg, Leesburg, Purcellville, Round Hill and Lovettsville.
- Similarly, **open burning is prohibited Countywide (towns included) during the period of May 1st through September 30th** unless approved by the Loudoun County Fire Marshal's Office. Campfires, no larger than 3 feet in diameter by 2 feet in height and used for cooking purposes are exempt from these prohibitions, provided they are no closer than 50 feet from a structure.
- The burning of construction debris, plastics, tires, tar based materials, oil or petroleum based products, hazardous materials, chemicals, animal carcasses and similar materials or waste is prohibited Countywide (towns included).

Open Burning is permitted:

- When not otherwise prohibited as outlined above.
- Unless prohibited above, the burning of lawn clippings, tree trimmings and brush piles, generated on site, where street side trash service is not available for this purpose, is allowed. The burning may be no closer than 50 feet from a structure.
- For agricultural purposes, such as clearing a field or fence row, for materials generated on site. The burning may be no closer than 1,000 feet from an occupied structure and may not pose a hazard to highways and airfields.
- For bonfires, provided that they consist of seasoned wood, piled neatly, no more than 5 feet in diameter by 5 feet in height. The burning may be no closer than 50 feet from a structure.

Development Related Burning:

- All land clearing operations by contractors or land owners for development purposes shall be approved by the Fire Marshal's Office. Such burning of trees, stumps and brush will likely require a permit from the State Air Pollution Control Board.
- Warming barrels at a construction site shall be approved by the Fire Marshal's Office. As approved, burning must be of clean lumber, done in a barrel or similar container that is screened or covered to prevent flying embers and may be no closer than 15 feet from a structure.

All such open burning must be reported to the Fire-Rescue Emergency Communications Center 703-777-0637 prior to ignition and when the fire is out. Fires may not be added to after midnight. All fires must be actively attended, with means to control and/or extinguish the fire.

Fire Marshal Disclaimer: The Loudoun County Fire Marshal may impose regulations, at any time, based upon complaint, atmospheric or other environmental circumstances, to restrict or extinguish any fire that is otherwise permitted according to these guidelines.

Violations and Penalty: Violations of the requirements on open burning may result in a conviction as a Class 1 Misdemeanor. In addition, the responsible party may be held liable for all damages and the costs of firefighting operations.

Questions can be directed to the Fire Marshal's Office at 703-777-0333 during normal business hours.