

ANSWERS TO YOUR “BURNING” QUESTIONS

How to Get a Burn Permit

- Access the Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment (WCDPHE) burn permit application on-line at https://www.co.weld.co.us/apps1/health/burn_permits/ or call (970) 304-6415. Walk-ins are welcome.
- The WCDPHE will evaluate and process your application. Once approved, your application will be forwarded to your local fire district for review. Your local fire district may deny your burn permit *even if* the WCDPHE has already approved it.
- Your local fire district has the final approval determination on the application based on any fire restrictions they may have.
- You will be notified if your permit has been approved or denied. Permits are valid for two weeks from the approval date.
- Once your permit has been approved, call your local fire district office each day you plan to burn prior to ignition. This prevents a fire department from responding to a report of smoke at an approved open burn site.
- Keep a copy of your burn permit on site when burning.
- Check the Colorado Open Burning Forecast online: https://www.colorado.gov/airquality/colorado_summary.aspx before you burn. You may not be able to burn every day in the two weeks your permit is active for.

Air Quality

- Burning wood and vegetative products produces an array of harmful chemicals. Carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, formaldehyde, dioxin and hundreds of additional chemicals are released when wood and other products are burned. Burning plastics, tires, chemically treated wood products and other man-made materials also produces this type of air pollution and releases other toxic chemicals into the air. Tiny pieces of material, commonly called particulate matter, are created in the burning process and can be inhaled into our lungs.
- The air pollutants produced by burning wood and vegetative material can irritate the eyes, nose and lungs and pose a threat to those who suffer from asthma and other respiratory conditions. These pollutants have been linked to several other health problems including nervous system damage, kidney and liver damage, and reproductive and developmental disorders.
- Open burning in Weld County is regulated by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment/Air Pollution Control Division and the WCDPHE under the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission’s Regulation 9. Open burning without a permit is illegal and can result in fines of up to **\$10,000 per day.**

Permitted Materials

It is ok to burn these materials **with** a burn permit:

- Sticks and branches
- Dry leaves, grass, and weeds
- natural wood

Prohibited Materials

DO NOT BURN:

- Construction debris, dimensional lumber, and pallets
- Household garbage
- Materials that produce excessive smoke (plastic, wire, tires, insulation, motor oil, aerosol cans, wet vegetation, painted or treated wood, etc.)
- Business waste
- Food waste
- Stumps

Exemptions

Some activities do **not** require a burn permit. These include:

- Agricultural burning of irrigation ditches or crop fields (Still notify your local fire district if conducting an agricultural burn)
- Recreational campfires
- Non-commercial cooking fires
- Household paper and cardboard

Burn Safety

- Pile branches in open areas away from standing trees and structures
- Piles should be no larger than 8ft x 8ft x 8ft in size
- Winds must be less than 5 mph. Check the weather forecast to avoid burning during high winds
- Have water, a rake, and a shovel available

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Open Burning Requirements and Guidelines

Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment
1555 N. 17th Avenue
Greeley, CO 80631
970-304-6415



WELD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT
1555 North 17th Avenue, Greeley, CO 80631 www.weldhealth.org

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Department of Public Health and Environment
1555 N. 17th Avenue
Greeley, CO 80631

970-304-6415

Health Administration	Public Health & Clinical Services	Environmental Health Services	Communication, Education & Planning	Emergency Preparedness & Response
Vital Records				
Telephone: 970-304-6410 Fax: 970-304-6412	Telephone: 970-304-6420 Fax: 970-304-6416	Telephone: 970-304-6415 Fax: 970-304-6411	Telephone: 970-304-6470 Fax: 970-304-6452	Telephone: 970-304-6470 Fax: 970-304-6452



Important Phone Numbers

Call 911 for fire emergencies

If you cannot contact your fire authority to notify them of a burn, please call Weld County Dispatch, who will pass the notification on: 970-350-9600

Ault: 970-834-2848
Berthoud: 970-532-2264
Briggsdale: 970-381-9422
Brighton: 303-659-4101 or 303-655-8690
Eaton: 970-454-2115
Evans: 970-475-1118
Fort Lupton: 303-857-4603
Frederick: 303-833-2742
Galeton: 970-237-1006
Garden City: 970-350-9600
Gilcrest: 970-785-2232, x 105
Greeley: 970-350-9600
Hudson: 303-536-0161
Front Range Fire Rescue: 970-587-4464
Johnstown/Milliken: 970-587-4464
Keenesburg: 303-249-0695
Kersey: 970-353-1681 or 970-353-3890
LaSalle: 970-284-6336
Mead: 303-772-0710
Mountain View: 303-772-0710
New Raymer-Stoneham: 970-380-1923
Nunn: 970-897-2385
Pawnee: 970-396-4564
Pierce: 970-834-2848
Platteville: 970-785-2232 x 105
Platte Valley: 970-353-3890
Poudre Valley: 970-221-6540
Severance: 970-686-2626
Union Colony: 970-350-9511
Wiggins: 970-483-6666
Windsor: 970-686-9596

All applicants must notify the appropriate communication center prior to each permitted burn