

WHEN IS A BURNING PERMIT REQUIRED IN CARROLL COUNTY?

Open burning in Carroll County is regulated under Maryland Department of the Environment Air Quality regulations and Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Fire Protection regulations. A burning permit is required for all open burning, except for small recreational fires such as campfires and for outdoor cooking of food. Burning in a barrel is considered to be open burning. Maryland Air Quality Regulations prohibit the burning of trash or refuse at any time.

WHAT ARE THE ALTERNATIVES TO BURNING?

For air quality and fire protection reasons, alternatives to open burning should be considered. Rather than burning leaves, they can be shredded, mowed or bagged, and used as mulch around plants or added to a compost pile. Likewise tree trimmings can be chipped and used as mulch, or left as a brush pile for wildlife habitat. Yard waste, including leaves, brush and wood, can also be taken to the Carroll County Central Landfill for recycling.

HOW DO YOU APPLY FOR A BURNING PERMIT?

Permit applications may be found at www.cchd.maryland.gov or in person at the Carroll County Bureau of Environmental Health office. Based on setback requirements, burning permits are generally limited to agricultural settings. Burning Permits can no longer be issued for commercial land clearing activities and land clearing debris must be disposed of under Maryland Department of the Environment Solid Waste Regulations. When an application is submitted, setbacks are evaluated using mapping software. If the site meets the setback requirement, a site visit to the property is conducted to ensure that all other requirements can be met prior to issuance of the permit. Typically, a permit can be issued within 7 to 10 business days.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR OPEN BURNING?

- The burn site must be located at least 1500 feet from any neighboring dwelling, roadway, or place where people work or congregate.
- Material to be burned must have originated on the premises.
- Materials permitted to be burned are dry brush, dry leaves and branches less than 6" in diameter. Treated or painted wood, poison ivy and poison sumac, and materials which produce dense smoke may not be burned.
- There is a natural or constructed fire break at least 10 feet wide completely around the material to be burned that is free of flammable materials
- Adequate personnel and equipment must be present at the burn site to prevent fire from escaping until the last spark is out.
- A hazardous condition or nuisance may not be created – be aware of weather and wind conditions and considerate of neighbors.
- Prior to any burn, notify the Carroll County Office of Public Safety at 410-386-2260 immediately before burning.
- THERE IS A BURNING BAN IN EFFECT FOR AIR QUALITY REASONS FROM JUNE 1 THROUGH AUGUST 31 EACH YEAR. BURNING BANS DURING DRY CONDITIONS MAY ALSO BE IMPOSED BY THE MARYLAND FOREST SERVICE AT OTHER TIMES.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

► Carroll County Health Department, Bureau of Environmental Health 410-876-1884