

State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources



Public Information Center
550 W. 7th Ave., Ste 1260
Anchorage, AK 99501

Phone: 907.269.8400
Fax: 907.269.8901
TTY: 907.269.8411

March 29, 2017

New burn permits required starting April 1

(Fairbanks, AK) – The Alaska Division of Forestry reminds residents that general burn permits for open debris burning and the use of burn barrels are required starting April 1 in areas under state wildland fire protection.

Burn permits are required annually and residents must obtain a new permit at the start of each season. Burn permits are free and available at State forestry offices, most local fire departments or can be downloaded and printed at www.forestry.alaska.gov/burn. This website is a key resource for learning about safe burning practices in Alaska.

Debris burning and the use of burn barrels are the leading cause of wildland fires in Alaska. Burn permits contain instructions for safe and legal burning.

Residents are required to read and sign the permit before burning. They must also call the forestry office listed on the permit or check online each day before burning to ensure that burning is allowed. Permittees must have the burn permit in his/her possession when burning. Burn permits are NOT required for camping or warming fires under 3 feet in diameter.

Burn barrels and debris burning are not permitted within some municipalities. Residents should check with their local forestry office or fire authorities to determine if burning is allowed in their area.

Burn piles larger than 10 feet in diameter and 4 feet high require a large-scale burn permit, which requires a site inspection by a State Forestry Prevention Officer and a burn plan prior to a permit being issued.

Anyone who fails to obtain or adhere to the conditions of a burn permit can be held criminally liable for damage caused by an escaped fire.

CONTACT: Tim Mowry, Alaska Division of Forestry public information officer, 907-356-5512 or tim.mowry@alaska.gov

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