



Spotsylvania County Outdoor Burning Guidelines (12/2/2019)

For your convenience, Spotsylvania County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management (FREM) is providing basic information on the County's outdoor burning guidelines: Basically, there are two types of burning, "yard cleanup (yard waste)" and "land clearing (debris waste)."

Yard Clean-up

Burning for the purposes of yard cleanup is allowed in Spotsylvania County as long as the following guidelines are adhered to:

1. Only leaves, small limbs (no larger than 2" in diameter), grass, and yard-and-garden trimmings may be burned. For any other yard burning, you must contact the Fire Marshal's Office at 540-507-7925 (during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) prior to starting any fire.
2. You must take general safety precautions and have a water hose and hand tools available to maintain control of the fire. The fire **MUST** also be attended at all times.
3. In order to burn items identified in item #1 above that are in sections of the County **not zoned A-3**, the responsible person conducting the burning shall maintain 300' clearance from the fire to any structure. In areas **zoned A-3**, at least 50' of clearance from the fire to any structure must be maintained.
4. Additionally, Virginia's state burning law takes effect from February 15th to April 30th each year. During this time, no burning is allowed until after 4 p.m. during this "dry season." Additionally, no fuel may be added or the fire rekindled after midnight. See <http://www.dof.virginia.gov/info/faqs-burning.htm> for more information.
5. FREM requires that citizens report all controlled burning to the County Non-Emergency Dispatch Line at (540) 582-7115 **prior to** burning. Provide the dispatch operator with the address/location of the burn, the time the burning will begin, and the time the burning will end.
6. The name, address, and telephone number of **the responsible party conducting the burning is required.** This information will be kept confidential. If a complaint is received, it will be acted upon and the responsible party may be responsible for any damage that occurs in addition to being criminally responsible for negligently allowing a fire to burn upon the property of another. If you have additional questions, please contact the Fire Marshal's Office during regular business hours.

Land Clearing

All questions involving land clearing burning must be directed to the Fire Marshal's Office during regular business hours. All land clearing burning, regardless of the zoning classification or whether a permit is required, requires that proper distance be maintained and may be subject to the use of incinerators. Land clearing burning is subject to many variables and no burning should be conducted without approval of the Fire Marshal's Office. **Land clearing burning is prohibited by state law from May 1st to October 1st.** Approval should be requested weeks prior to the burning being conducted as the burn site(s) may require inspection(s). **An open air burning permit of \$200 may be required.** For more information, please contact the Spotsylvania County Fire Marshal's Office.

Thank you for being fire safe!