

GUIDELINES TO FOLLOW CONCERNING OPEN-AIR BURNING

The Smithsburg Community Volunteer Fire Company along with the Mayor and Council of Smithsburg would like to inform the citizens of Smithsburg the Guidelines to follow concerning open-air burning. Open-air burning, defined as the burning of any material burned in the open or in a receptacle other than a furnace, incinerator or other equipment connected to a stack or chimney is regulated. These guidelines are set by the State of Maryland under, Title 26 Department of the Environment Subtitle 11 Air Quality.

The 14-point guideline includes:

1. The Washington County Health Department at 240-313-3400 and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regulate all controlled burns.
2. You must notify Fire and Rescue Communications at 240-313-2900 prior to, and at the conclusion of any burning occurrence.
3. Controlled burning requires permission from the Washington County Health Department. They will determine whether a permit is required or not.
4. Only the Washington County Health Department can grant permission to burn.
5. If there is a problem with a controlled burn the Washington County Health Department is to be notified at 240-313-3400. The Fire Marshal's office will only get involved if there are extenuating circumstances such as injuries that are a result of the controlled burn, threats to personal property etc.
6. If there are any complaints about the controlled burn it must be extinguished. No nuisance can be created.
7. Fires shall NOT be started with any type of accelerants. (Tires, fuel oil, has etc.)
8. The fire must be attended to all times.
9. Only products produced on the property can be burned in a small campfire setting.
10. Trash cannot be burned.
11. Burn barrels are not allowed.
12. You must stay a minimum of 200 feet from any dwelling and 200 feet from a wooded area per National Protection Association standards and State regulations.
13. All burn bans must be adhered to.
14. All request specific to field burning permits must specifically contact the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service. Their burning regulations specific to "open-air burning" can be found at www.dnr.state.md.us/forest/wfm.asp.

For additional guidelines and specific "burning regulations" within Maryland, individuals can contact the Department of Natural Resources, Forest Service or go to www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/wfm.asp.