

There are rules for safe residential burning.

Because of high regional ozone levels, **no household or yard waste may be burned by residents in incorporated areas of Lake, Porter, Clark or Floyd counties.** In all other counties where ozone levels are safer, open burning of clean wood products may be permitted according to the following rules. This brochure should be considered a summary of the rules and is not to be relied upon as legal advice. Please refer to 326 IAC 4-1 and IC 13-17-9 for state regulations (this is available online at www.in.gov/legislative/ic_ia). Your town, city or county may also have an ordinance that could be more restrictive than the state laws. Call your local health department, fire department or government offices before burning.

According to state law, these rules must always be followed:

- ✓ Only clean wood products may be burned. Wood products coated with stain, paint, glue or other coatings are not safe to burn.
- ✓ Burning must be done during safe weather conditions, not during high winds or on pollution alert days or ozone action days.
- ✓ Fires must be attended until completely extinguished.
- ✓ Burning must be done during daylight hours and extinguished prior to sunset.
- ✓ Fire fighting equipment adequate for the size of the fire must be nearby.
- ✓ Material may only be burned in a noncombustible and ventilated container, such as a metal drum with enclosed sides and bottom. Burning on the ground is illegal.
- ✓ Open burning is not allowed at mobile home parks, apartment or condominium complexes or buildings of more than four dwelling units.
- ✓ Fires must be extinguished if they create a fire hazard, nuisance, pollution problem or threat to public health.
- ✓ Burning must comply with all other federal, state and local laws, rules and ordinances.

If you witness illegal burning...

Call (800) 451-6027, and ask for extension 3-0178 (in Indiana), or (317) 233-0178, and have a copy of this brochure sent to the violator. Education is the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's preferred method of achieving environmental compliance. In cases where open burning laws are ignored, enforcement options exist. IDEM encourages towns, cities and counties to adopt burning ordinances because enforcement is often more effective at the local level.

Violators may have to pay a fine or pay the costs of having a fire extinguished. If the fire escapes, the violator may have to cover property damage costs.

