


It is always illegal to burn trash in St. Louis County. It is also illegal to burn yard waste unless your property meets certain requirements (see inside). Recreational, cooking, conservation, fire training, and commercial land clearing open burns may be permitted if you follow the law.

Basic guidelines may be found inside, but more detailed information can be found in **St. Louis County Code of Revised Ordinances Title VI Chapter 612.345**, Open Burning Restrictions.

The Department of Public Health Air Pollution Control Program enforces open burning regulations in St. Louis County; however, fires may also be subject to any municipal or local fire protection district restrictions.



You may only burn clean, dry, split, seasoned firewood.

## Air Pollution Control

Contact us for assistance with air quality concerns, air pollutants, nuisance odors, open burning, particulate matter (dust), building demolitions, environmental noise and asbestos removal. These are common air pollution areas of concern we can assist you with.

### Contact Us:

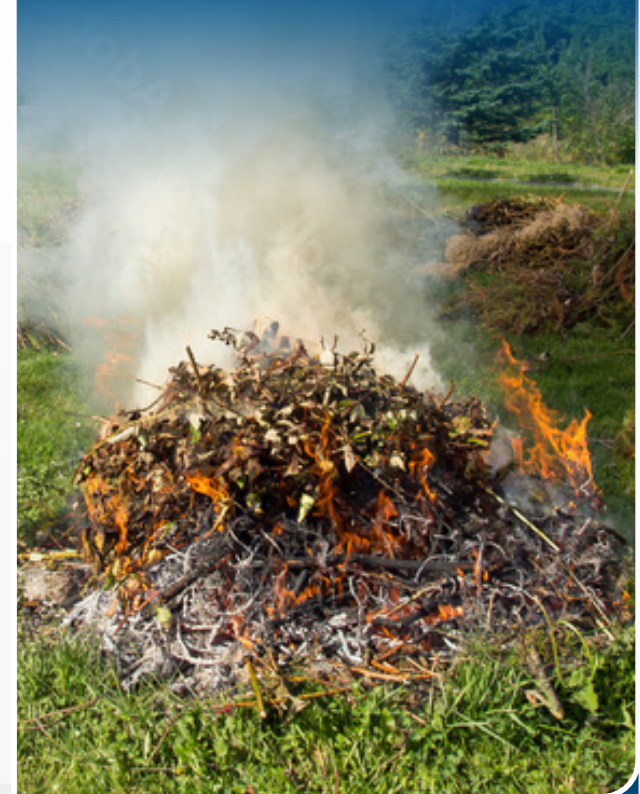
Division of Environmental Services  
6121 N. Hanley Road  
Berkeley, MO 63134  
Monday – Friday  
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

314-615-8924  
[airpollution.DPH@stlouiscountymo.gov](mailto:airpollution.DPH@stlouiscountymo.gov)

# Open Burning Fact Sheet

**St. Louis County**

**Department of Public Health**  
Air Pollution Control Program  
Division of Environmental Services



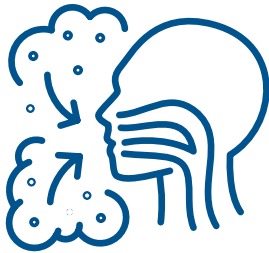
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## Why are fires and open burning restricted?

As defined in **County Ordinance 612.030**, Definitions, "open burning" means the burning of any materials where air contaminants resulting from combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber.

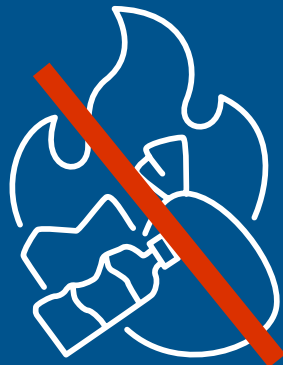
Any fire releases harmful materials. Emissions from fires include fine particle pollution (PM10 and PM2.5), toxic chemicals, carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas), carbon monoxide, and precursors to ground-level ozone formation (oxides of nitrogen and volatile organic compounds). Burning garbage can produce large quantities of toxic materials. The pollutants released by fires can cause or exacerbate respiratory and heart problems, damage the nervous system, and cause other health issues.



While no one fire is likely to affect all of St. Louis County's air, in a large metropolitan area like ours, a significant, unhealthy, and unsafe amount of air pollution would be produced if open burning was completely unrestricted.

## What are the fire and open burning rules in St. Louis County?

- You may only burn clean, dry, split, seasoned firewood. **Burning trash, treated wood, plastic, rubber, construction/demolition waste, etc., is illegal at any time.**
- The total cumulative base area of a recreational fire shall not exceed nine (9) square feet.
- Burning yard waste is illegal, with the following exceptions:
  - The property size is equal to or greater than three (3) acres, except where the property shares a boundary with the Meramec, Missouri, or Mississippi Rivers there shall be no property size restriction; and
  - The burn shall only occur between September 15 and April 15 of each year; and
  - The cumulative base area of the fire(s) shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet; and
  - The yard waste is only comprised of leaves, needles, brush, tree trimmings, and other similar materials.
- Fires shall not cause smoke, ash, or particulate matter to remain visible in the air or upon surfaces beyond the property line where the fire is occurring.
- Consult **County Ordinance 612.345** for more information about cooking fires, natural resource conservation burns, fire training exercise burns, and commercial land clearing operations.



## What if my neighbor is burning stuff in their yard?

You can report illegal open burning activities to the Air Pollution Control Program:

**314-615-8924**

**[airpollution.dph@stlouiscountymmo.gov](mailto:airpollution.dph@stlouiscountymmo.gov)**

You may call your local fire department or police department if you feel there is imminent danger.



## What can I do with my yard waste?

- Use curbside yard waste pickup. Contact your waste hauler for more information about yard waste pickup at your address.
- Haul your yard waste directly to a licensed yard waste compost facility; fees may apply.
- Compost your yard waste on your own property.

