OPEN BURNING

Pinal County Air Quality Control District
What is "Open Burning" in Pinal County?

Open Burning is any burning outdoors that does not pass through a stack, duct, or chimney. This includes outdoor residential, agriculture, and prescribed burning.
With an approved burn permit, burning of vegetative materials is allowed unless:

A High Pollution Advisory has been issued
An advisory has been issued by the National Weather Service
Periods of extreme fire danger or when smoke is blown into populated areas
An air pollution emergency is declared
Your local fire department has banned all burning until further notice
Air pollution created from open burning can:

- Cause respiratory diseases such as asthma, emphysema, and chronic bronchitis
- Irritate your eyes & skin
- Cause headaches, dizziness, and fatigue
Be Prepared!

A small fire...
........... could turn into a disaster
Illegal Burning

* Civil penalties up to $10,000.00 per day
* Class 1 or 2 Misdemeanor or Class 3 Felony
Permitted Fires

Provided that a valid burn permit is obtained, the following fires are allowed after contacting the appropriate fire department or State Forester.

**Residential** – Disposal of non-toxic vegetative or horticultural waste that is generated only from that property that is listed on the burn permit

**Commercial** – Disposal of non-toxic vegetative or horticultural waste that is generated only from the property listed on the burn permit

**Agricultural** – Weed control or the disposal of non-toxic horticultural waste

**Fires listed below require contact with Pinal County Air Quality**

**Bonfires** – Set by a political subdivision for a civic or community event

**Training Exercise** – Fires set for the purpose of instruction & training of firefighters

**Building Demolition** – Disposal of abandoned buildings/materials

**Destruction of dangerous material** – Materials that are too dangerous to store or transport

**Air Curtain Destructor** – Disposal of non-toxic vegetative or horticultural waste
Exempt Fires

* Recreational fires - Fires used for religious, ceremonial, cooking, or warmth and with a total fuel area of 3 ft or less in diameter & 2 ft or less in height can be conducted without a permit.

Fires listed below require contact with Pinal County Air Quality.

* Public Officer fires - Used by a public officer in the performance of official duty.
When can approved material be burned?

* October 1st thru March 31st
  Open burning allowed with a valid burn permit

* May 1st thru September 30th - Arizona Revised Statute 49-501
  NO BURNING WITHIN AREA A (Apache Junction, Gold Canyon,
  San Tan Valley, Queen Creek, Peralta Trails)

* April 1st thru September 30th
  Burning is limited or non-existent due to dry conditions
  for all areas of Pinal County (Check the Air Quality website
  frequently to find out when burn permits will resume
  being issued)

* Burn Hours
  8:00am - 4:00pm (April 1 - September 30)
  9:00am - 4:30pm (October 1 - March 31)
Where can you burn?

* At least 50 ft from any residence/building
* Do not locate fires near streams, sinkholes, or under/over utility lines
* Check with your local fire department or State Forester prior to burning
A burn permit is only to be used to burn vegetative material!
Prohibited Burn Items

* Metal
* All food items
* Aerosol cans
* Styrofoam

* Diapers
* Garbage
* Oleanders
* Household waste
Prohibited Burn Items

Construction/Demolition
* Asbestos materials
* Buildings (houses, barns, garages)
* Construction debris
* Demolition debris
* Drywall
* Shingles

* Flooring
* Treated wood
* Fence posts
* Painted wood
* Pallets
* Wood mulch
Prohibited Burn Items

Agriculture
* Hay
* Animal bedding
* Manure
* Livestock

A burn permit is only to be used to burn vegetative material!
Burning can waste valuable resources. To prevent this, some open burning can be minimized through better planning, reuse or recycling. Yard trimmings and other vegetative matter can be composted. Newspaper & cardboard can be recycled.

Households can save money by reusing materials & products & by practicing smart shopping habits that reduce waste.
Proper Burning Basics

* Use alternatives to burning to dispose of material whenever possible.
* Check with Pinal County Air Quality about permit requirements.
* Check with Pinal County Air Quality and your local fire department about air quality conditions and any burn restrictions.
* Burn during the designated hours.
* Burn when fuels are dry and well aerated so the fire is hot, yet manageable. Wet or dirt covered materials will smolder and create more smoke.
* Build piles in open areas away from overhead branches and wires.
* Scrape away burnable materials several feet around piles. The result should be bare soil.
* Never leave fire unattended and have your water hose/shovel available at all times.
* Burn at least 50 ft away from any structure.
Clean Air .......... Today ...... Tomorrow!

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Air Quality Complaints On-Line: www.pinalcountyaz.gov/Departments/AirQuality/Pages/FileaComplaint.aspx