

# Goochland County Fire and Rescue Open Burning Regulations

The following information is provided as a summary of the open burning regulations for Goochland County. If you have any questions regarding open burning, please contact the Fire Marshal at 556-5304.

## A. For ALL open burning:

1. Prior to all open burning, the County Sheriff's office shall be notified at 556-5349 with the location and times of the burning.
2. Open burning conducted with a permit or in accordance with regulations does not exempt any person from being held accountable damages or injuries as a result of the burning. All persons responsible for the open burning are required to follow all applicable codes and ordinances. Costs for any emergency response required due to a failure to maintain control of the open burning may be charged to the responsible party.
3. From February 15<sup>th</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup> of each year, the State Forestry laws supercede local ordinances.
4. All open burning shall be constantly attended until the fire is completely extinguished.
5. Burning must be conducted as far away from roadways to prevent smoke from affecting a driver's safety.
6. Burning shall be conducted when winds will not carry smoke and ash to another persons dwelling, building or roadways.
7. Any open burning that causes objectionable smoke or odor will be required to be extinguished until more favorable winds are present. Multiple complaints for the same location may result in revocation of a permit.
8. Burning of the following is **strictly prohibited**:
  - a. Hazardous or toxic materials and their containers
  - b. Rubber tires, rubber products, asphalt, petroleum products, treated lumber
  - c. Industrial or commercial waste
  - d. Animal carcasses or animal waste
  - e. Garbage, including rotting animal or vegetable matter
  - f. Demolition materials such as building materials or parts or buildings being torn down
  - g. Materials transported from another location or property
9. Applications will be processed within 10 days of receipt of the application and permit fee.

## B. Burning conducted by private landowners or tenants- homeowners, landowners or their tenants may burn on their property if the following conditions are met:

1. The location of the materials to be burned must be at least **300 feet** from the nearest building on another person's property and at least **50 feet** from any building on the property in which the fire is located. Written (dated) permission from a neighbor **must** be obtained prior to burning if the materials are within 300 feet of their building.
2. The **pile size is limited to 8' X 8'**. If the material to be burned exceeds the 8' X 8' maximum size, a permit is required. Adequate precautions must be taken to prevent the fire from spreading. This can be done by plowing or grubbing the soil around the pile and providing an ample water supply.
3. Materials which may be burn include: leaves, limbs, yard rakings, garden trimmings, brush and other plant materials, household refuse and trash accumulated during day to day living.
4. Items burned in an approved container (55 gal drum) may be burned no closer than 15 feet to a building on your property.

## C. Burning conducted by contractors, property owners, homeowners or tenants-

1. A permit is **required** for burning conducted by any person(s) involving piles exceeding 8' X 8'.
2. Applicants for open burning must provide permit and/ or approved POD numbers prior to issuance of a burn permit for land clearing or new construction sites.
3. Permits must be obtained from the Goochland Fire and Rescue office during normal business hours.
  - a. Applications must be accompanied by a \$75.00 fee. Checks, money order or **exact amount** cash will be accepted.
  - b. Applications must be accompanied by a site diagram clearly showing the location of the burn pile(s) and distances to roadways and the nearest buildings on another person's property. The Fire Marshal must approve all site plans and may require a site visit prior to issuing a permit.
4. The **minimum** distance from any building on another person's property for open burning is **500 feet**. Any burning conducted closer than 500 feet to a building, written (dated) permission must be obtained from the property owner and maintained on site for the duration of the permit and a copy attached to the application.
5. Open burning permits will be issued for a 90 day period with one extension approved at no additional charge. Any requests for extensions must be requested from the Fire Marshal prior to the expiration of the permit.

*\*\*Violations of the open burning regulations are punishable as Class 1 misdemeanors.*