

**PONDERA COUNTY
BURN PERMIT POLICY**

Updated 1-05-2022

PONDERA COUNTY PERMIT ISSUANCE:

1. County Permits are required for the current year ending December 31.
2. Only one burn permit is required per year which is activated by calling the Sheriff's office at 406-271-4060 one hour prior to ignition.
3. Permits may be obtained from the Clerk and Recorder, County Commissioners or from Deputy Fire Wardens located throughout the County.
4. Permit holders are **REQUIRED** to call the Sheriff's office (406-271-4060) one hour prior to ignition. *Failure to call may result in fines up to \$500 and 6 months in jail, plus costs and damages.*
5. Burning permits are valid for Pondera County only. Reservation lands have their own policies and permits.
6. During the period **March 1 through August 31**, open burning may be conducted only when fire danger is low and weather forecasts indicate safe burning conditions. Burners are responsible for the effects of their actions, including smoke emissions and may burn only during favorable conditions using burn techniques and methods to minimize air quality impacts and health and safety concerns.

STATE OF MONTANA REQUIREMENTS:

1. **FALL BURNING:** September, October, and November. Burner is required to also adhere to DEQ restrictions. Call DEQ hotline prior to ignition. 1-800-225-6779 or go to website at www.deq.mt.gov/air/sf/summerburn.
2. **WINTER BURNING:** December, January, February. Burner is required to also notify DEQ prior to ignition. Call DEQ hotline to verify ventilation conditions. 1-800-225-6779.
3. **SPRING/SUMMER:** March, April, May, June, July and August. Burner may conduct open burning without contacting DEQ. See County sections 1- 6 above.

BURNING REQUIREMENTS:

1. Everyone is responsible for their own actions.
2. Limited or acceptable burn materials include crop residue.
3. For open pit burning, limited or acceptable burn materials include untreated building materials and tree branches.
4. Fire guards and fire suppression equipment must be at the scene to contain the fire.
5. An adult shall attend the fire from start to completion of burn.
6. All burning of CRP will comply with USDA burning requirements including, but not limited to a burn plan approved by USDA Natural Resource and Conservation Service.
7. Permit Cancellation:

Be aware that the County Commissioners or the County Rural Fire Coordinator may cancel burning permits when conditions necessitate. If you have questions call Melinda Burns, DES Coordinator, at 271-4040.