



## OPEN BURNING INFORMATION

From Summit County Fire Warden, Bryce Boyer

**For open burning in Summit County the following are things to know:**

### Unincorporated Areas

The Utah State Forestry Fire and State Lands rules/laws for burning cover June 1<sup>st</sup> thru October 31<sup>st</sup>. During this time a **Burn Permit** is required for burning anything except for campfires in improved fire pits. The permits are free and obtained from the Fire Warden for unincorporated areas of the County. I do these Monday thru Thursday and they can be for three (3) days so plan ahead and call before you want to burn. Also if you are going to burn Friday thru the weekend you will need to get the permit issued on Thursday. I need to be contacted on Wednesday for permits for the weekend, due to case load.

There are three (3) things used to base a burn or no burn day or period,

1. The top requirement is a 500 clearing. This is mandated by Division of Air Quality.
2. Winds below 10 MPH, this is based on past history of lost controlled burns. This may be less of an issue if there has been rain or snow and wet ground and vegetation.
3. Red flag, hazard wind warnings, or low relative humidity levels.

Once the permit is issued, before burning Summit County Sheriff's dispatch must be contacted at (435)336-3600, prompt 1 as any 911 report of a fire will go through them and if they know where there are burn(s) it saves tax dollars from having Fire districts sent to an a controlled burn. Also fires are to be manned at all times, this is State law. If a passer by sees a person in the area of a fire they may be less likely to report it as a brush fire. When done burning a call back to Dispatch center lets Dispatch know that any other calls need to be dispatched to fire units.

### Incorporated Areas

There is an open burn period from March 31<sup>st</sup> thru May 30<sup>th</sup>, then again September 15<sup>th</sup> to October 30<sup>th</sup>. During this time the permits are done through the Division of Air Quality or

their website and links to it are on the Summit County Web site. This is the only time for open burn in incorporated areas. Again you still will need to call in to Summit Sheriffs dispatch.

In the Park City area also check on any local or city restrictions.

Summit County has passed an ordinance requiring the call to Dispatch from April 1st to November 30th. However the fire personal from the County ask that before burning anytime other than cooking type camp fires you call in to dispatch. This in the last year has cut False alarm Brush Fire type Calls County wide by 174 responses saving tax dollars.

Air Quality rules/ Laws are playing a larger part of open Burning requirements:

Open burning is a source of air pollution that is regulated by the Division of Air Quality (DAQ). There are statewide rules in place that regulate open burning activities to help minimize emissions and ensure that the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) are met. Recent modifications to these rules change the open burn periods and include a statewide requirement to obtain a permit from the local county or municipal fire authority prior to burning.

###