

Custer County

Open Burn Management Plan

1/1/2012

During periods of extreme fire danger or poor air quality the Governor and/or the County Commissioners may impose an open burning ban which supersedes this plan.

Objective:

The objective of this Open Burn Management Plan (the "Plan") is to serve as a unified plan for management of open burns throughout the Wet Mountain Fire Protection District and within Custer County as to fire safety and air quality. This Plan will also create a single open burn permit within Custer County that Burn Managers may obtain from the Fire Warden at the Custer County Sheriff's Office.

Applicability:

This Plan shall be administered within the jurisdiction of the local fire district and on private land outside the fire district by the Custer County Fire Warden following the guidelines contained in this plan.

Definitions:

Agricultural Open Burning: As established in Colorado Air Quality Control Commission's Regulation 9, agricultural open burning is "the burning of cover vegetation for the purpose of preparing the soil for crop production, weed control, maintenance of water conveyance structures related to agricultural operations, and other agricultural cultivation purposes." Open burning of animal parts or carcasses is *not* agricultural burning (unless the State Agricultural Commission declares a public health emergency that requires the burning of diseased animal carcasses). Open burning of household trash, wood, and yard debris on agricultural land is *not* agricultural burning and is *not* exempt from State permitting requirements.

Burn Manager: An individual who obtains a valid Open Burn Permit in order to plan, build, control, extinguish, and otherwise supervise an open burn during a Burn Season.

Fire Districts: Wet Mountain Fire Protection District

Open Burn Permit: A permit kept on file on a form at the Custer County Sheriff's Office by the Custer County Fire Warden.

Open Burn Rules:

1. The following shall be exempt from these rules and the permitting requirements.
 - a. Fires for cooking of food.

- b. Fires for instructional or recreational purposes (e.g. campfire).
 - c. Flares to indicate danger to the public.
 - d. Agricultural Open Burning.
2. All open burns require burn managers to read and understand the Custer County Open Burn Plan and completing the Open Burn Permit process through Custer County dispatch.
3. All open burns that meet the criteria of a Type 4 burn require a separate permit issued by CDPHE.
4. No open burns, including agricultural burns, shall be permitted on days when the Fire Warden has issued a fire danger rating of High, Very High, Extreme or Red Flag Warning has been issued.
5. Open burning that is emits odor or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited. No burning of tires or hazardous materials will be permitted.
6. Open burning shall only be performed when time and atmospheric conditions allow for safe burning and adequate ventilation.
7. Open burning shall not be conducted within fifty (50) feet of any structure or other combustible materials. Conditions which could cause the fire to spread to within 50 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition. **EXCEPTION:** Clearances from structures and other combustible materials is allowed to be reduced if conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure are eliminated prior to ignition and:
 - A. Not less than fifteen (15) feet when burning is conducted in a non-combustible enclosure.
 - B. Not less than twenty-five (25) feet when the pile size is three (3) feet or less in diameter and two (2) feet or less in height and contained in a burn pit.
8. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating or other approved on site fire-extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck, shall be readily available for use at open burning sites.
9. Open burning shall be *constantly* attended or monitored by the burn manager.
10. Start ignition no *later* than 10:00 a.m., or as allowed by permit to allow adequate time for the burn to extinguish by sunset of the same day of ignition.
11. Burn Managers shall “chunk” burn pile at least once. That is, before the fire self-extinguishes and after the fire has burned down enough that the work can be done safely, consolidate partly burned wood to promote renewed flaming. Focus on pieces of wood that are smoldering, especially those that extend beyond the burned edge of the pile. Usually the easiest way is to toss outer sticks back into the center of the pile’s footprint. Alternatively, extinguish smoldering wood by placing individual pieces separately in adjacent snow, and scraping the charred wood as needed with a shovel or similar tool. Chunk pile by sunset of the same day it was ignited.

12. Representatives of Wet Mountain Fire Protection Districts and Custer County Sheriff's Office are authorized to require that any open burn or recreational fire be immediately discontinued if they determine that the smoke emissions are offensive to occupants of surrounding property or if the open burn is determined to constitute a hazardous condition.
13. The Open Burn Permit shall be logged and available at the Custer County Sheriff's Office and made available to the authorities when requested.
14. The Burn Manager, on the day of the burn and prior to ignition, must contact the Custer County Sheriff's Office directly (719)783-2270. Burn Manager will be provided a permit number when calling.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Custer County Public Health Agency (CCPHA): shall perform the following duties.

1. Adhere to and enforce the functions and duties as described in the Delegation of Authority from CDPHE.
2. Respond to the inquiries of Custer County citizens who may have health-related sensitivities to smoke and provide notice of known open burns to such citizens if requested.
3. Respond to any smoke related open burning complaints that it receives

Fire District or County Emergency Manager: shall perform the following duties.

1. The Fire Districts and County Emergency Manager shall participate in trainings pertaining to fire safety and/or air quality offered by Custer County Public Health Agency (CCPHA) and/or Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).
2. Make Open Burn Plan available to public at County website at custercountygov.com, keep posted in the County Courthouse, available at the Custer County Sheriff's Office, Wet Mountain Fire Protection District, Wetmore Volunteer Fire Dept., and Custer County Office of Emergency Management.
3. The Fire District shall retain Open Burn Permits for at least three (3) years. If requested by the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division (CAPCD) and/or CCPHA, the Fire District or Sheriff's Office shall provide records pertaining to burn sites within ten (10) days of said request.
4. Adhere to and enforce the Open Burn Rules described above.
5. The Fire District will conduct an inspection of any large open burn piles (greater than 30'x30'x10') before a permit is issued.

Open Burning Application & Permit

Date: _____ Permit No. _____ Permit Exp _____

Address: _____

Landowner: _____

Phone No. _____

Burn Supervisor (if different): _____

Phone No. _____

Distance to nearest neighbor or structure _____

Have you read and agree to the Custer County Burn Plan? - Yes or No

Fire Warden/Custer County Sheriff's Office – 719-783-2270

Wet Mountain Fire Protection District – 719-783-9245

Pile(s) Information

of piles: _____ Photos on file: Yes No

Pile Dimensions: H _____ W _____ L _____ Pile Shape: _____

Pile size (cubic feet): _____

Pile Construction:

Hand Grapple/Rake Blade

Dirt, stumps, construction trash, etc: Yes No

Percent of wood volume greater than 3" diameter: _%

Fire committed and feasible to be cold by sunset: Yes No

Constant attendance: Monitored:

Material to be burned: _____

Comments: _____

*These permits are to be kept on file for 3 years.