



Burning Guidelines

For your convenience, Spotsylvania County's Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services has provided some basic information with reference to our LOCAL burning guidelines:

There are two main reasons for burning, "yard cleanup" and "clearing to build."

Yard Cleanup

Burning for the purposes of yard cleanup is allowed in Spotsylvania County as long as the citizen adheres to the following guidelines:

1. Citizens may burn only leaves, small limbs, grass, and yard-and-garden trimmings. If they are burning anything other than the items mentioned above, they need to call the Fire Marshal's Office during normal work hours to be advised by a Fire Marshal.
2. All general safety precautions are to be taken--have a water hose and tools handy to maintain control of the fire. The fire **MUST** be attended at all times.
3. In order to burn the items identified in #1, the person conducting the burn shall have 300' from where the burning is taking place to any dwellings not on their own property.
4. The STATE burning law is in effect from February 15th - April 30th. There will be no burning until after 4 p.m. during this "dry season." (No fuel may be added or fire rekindled after midnight.)
5. A name, address, and PHONE NUMBER is required in order for a Fire Official to check a complaint. (This information is kept confidential.) If the complaint is to be acted upon, the Fire Official will have questions and need specific instructions and directions--a phone number is imperative.
6. The Fire Marshal is available to answer questions related to this ordinance during regular business hours (weekdays 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) at 582-7095.

Clearing to Build

All questions with reference to burning from clearing to build must be directed to a Fire Official during normal work hours. All land clearing burning, regardless of the zoning and regardless of whether a permit is required, must maintain proper distance requirements and may be subject to the use of incinerators. All burns are subject to variables and should be clarified to a Fire Official several weeks before the burning is to be conducted as the burn site(s) may require inspection(s).

These statements are reflected in general terms for the public's ease in understanding and relaying the information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Fire Marshal's Office at (540) 582-7095.

Thank you for being fire safe!