



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

POST OFFICE BOX 301463 36130-1463 ♦ 1400 COLISEUM BLVD. 36110-2059

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

WWW.ADEM.STATE.AL.US

(334) 271-7700

ONIS "TREY" GLENN, III, P.E.
DIRECTOR

BOB RILEY
GOVERNOR

Facsimiles: (334)

Administration: 271-7950
General Counsel: 394-4332
Communication: 394-4383
Air: 279-3044
Land: 279-3050
Water: 279-3051
Groundwater: 270-5631
Field Operations: 272-8131
Laboratory: 277-6718
Mining: 394-4326

Guidelines for Open Burning of Natural Disaster Debris

1. These guidelines apply to the open burning of debris resulting from catastrophic natural events.
2. Only vegetation and untreated wood may be burned. All other materials should be disposed of by burial in a permitted landfill or a site approved by ADEM for disposal.
3. Open burning, including approval of sites, must be coordinated and supervised by county officials (public health officers, county engineer, solid waste coordinators, emergency management officials). A municipality may conduct and supervise its own open burning, following these guidelines, after approval by a county official.
4. If a burn site is located in a county in which the Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) has issued a Fire Alert, the location of the site must be telephonically given to the regional office of the AFC. The southwest office of the AFC is in Brewton and the telephone number is 251-867-5368. It will be necessary to give the section, township and range of the site as part of this notification. **YOU ARE NOT ASKING FOR A PERMIT. THIS IS ONLY A NOTIFICATION FOR A STORM WASTE BURN SITE.**
5. Open burning sites should be as distant as possible from occupied dwellings and businesses. Recommended minimum distance is 1000 feet. Prevailing wind direction should be considered to minimize nuisance smoke.
6. The county, burning site name, entrance location and contact person with telephone number should be telephoned into ADEM at 334/271-7879 or 271-7897. The location should be given in longitude and latitude numbers as determined by a GPS device.
7. Material to be burned should be as dry as possible. Larger piles consume the debris faster during combustion.



8. Open burning is best conducted during clear weather, preferably on days with sunshine.
9. Burning may commence or fuel added to a fire between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Existing fires may burn beyond 3:00 p.m.
10. The use of portable air curtain incinerators is encouraged and should be considered if one or more of the following situations exist:
 - a. Extended 24-hour burning is necessary.
 - b. Accelerated burning is desired.
 - c. Smoke is or may become a problem.
11. Prior to closing the burn site, the operator of the site must conduct a hazardous waste determination on the ash resulting from open burning and submit that to the ADEM Industrial Hazardous Waste Branch. ADEM will make a determination if the ash can remain at the site or must be removed from the site. If ash is left at the site, it shall be covered with a minimum of six inches of soil and a vegetative cover must be established. If ash is removed from the site, it must be taken to a permitted landfill as approved by ADEM.
12. If ash from open burning or regulated solid waste are disposed of at the site, a deed notation must be recorded in the County records for the site within 90 days after the site discontinues receiving waste, stating that solid waste has been disposed of on the site. The site must be surveyed by a registered land surveyor and the results of the survey recorded in the deed.
13. Open burning shall not occur at a permitted landfill unless approved by the ADEM Solid Waste Branch. Contact the Solid Waste Branch at 334-271-7988 for details.
14. ADEM has the authority to halt or modify any open burning of disaster debris. ADEM contact for open burning is Lud Hoffmann, telephone 334-271-7879.

7/8/2005