

ENVIRONMENTAL MONTHLY BULLETIN

September 2026

OPEN BURNING

FMSI conducts open burning under an Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) open burn permit. The permit regulates when, what, and where material may be burned on site and is renewed annually.

WHAT CAN FMSI BURN?

- Brush, grass, and weeds
- Cut trees up to 18 inches in diameter
- Untreated wood or lumber
- Empty explosive boxes

WHAT CAN'T FMSI BURN?

- Plastic bottles; used oil and oil filters
- Chemically treated wood
- Wire or thermal insulation
- Paint, cleaners, solvents, and flammable liquids
- Tires and antifreeze

WHEN AND WHERE CAN FMSI BURN?

- Start ignition no earlier than one hour after sunrise. • Burn only at a designated pile or burn pit.
- Extinguish the fire at least two hours before sunset. • Do not burn on a No Burn Day or during an Air Pollution Emergency Episode.

OPEN BURN REQUIREMENTS

- Maintain at least 50 feet of clearance from buildings.
- Use only matches, flares, or hand-held propane or butane torches to ignite the burn.
- Never use oil, gasoline, diesel, tires, or other materials that may create black smoke.
- Notify the nearest firefighting agency before each burn.
- Do not burn when wind may carry smoke into populated areas or create visibility hazards on roads or at airports.
- A responsible person must remain present until the fire is completely extinguished.
- Keep the equipment needed to control and extinguish the fire readily available.

EMISSIONS REDUCTION TECHNIQUES

- Minimize the amount of material burned.
- Allow material to dry before burning.
- Burn material in piles.
- Line the burn area to prevent fire spread.
- Minimize soil in slash piles; pile under dry conditions or by hand.
- Extinguish smoldering material.

RECORDKEEPING: LOG EACH OPEN BURN

Record the date and time, purpose of the burn, specific items ignited, and quantity of items ignited.



WHAT TO REMEMBER

Segregate waste and use the appropriate disposal containers. Burning unapproved material is prohibited and may create hazardous emissions. Everyone is responsible for making sure only approved material enters an open burn pile.

Questions? Contact FMSI Environmental Services

Refer to BMP 101 Open Burning before conducting an open burn.