

Community Safety Tips

Presented by the Eureka Fire Protection District

The following information is presented as a public service from the Eureka Fire Protection District. Residents not living in the Eureka Fire Protection District should contact their local Fire District, City or County Health Department.

Facts on Open Burning Under Missouri Regulations

Definitions :

St. Louis metropolitan area: The geographical area comprising St. Louis, St. Charles, Jefferson and Franklin Counties and the city of St. Louis.

Opening Burning - Burning of any materials in which air contaminants resulting from combustion are emitted directly into ambient air without fire passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber.

Prohibited Open Burning Under State Regulation

Any waste generated by a business, trade, industry, factory or any demolition operation cannot be burned. This would include, but not be limited to, paper, cardboard boxes, pallets, tires, rubber products, hazardous materials, styrofoam, plastics; petroleum based products and treated wood. Any asbestos-containing material cannot be burned.

Open Burning of Household Refuse

St. Louis metropolitan area: Open burning of household refuse is prohibited in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

Open Burning of Household Yard Wastes

Missouri allows open burning of household yard wastes originating on premises from four dwelling units or less and burned on the same premises.

St. Louis metropolitan area: Open burning of tree leaves or residential brush is allowed only in areas outside of incorporated municipalities and is limited to the period beginning Sept. 16 and ending April 14 of each calendar year. These brush piles are limited to 16 square feet and the burning is allowed from 10 a.m. through 4 p.m.

Open Burning in Land Clearing Operations

Open burning of tree trunks, tree limbs and vegetation from land clearing operations is allowed only in the out state area if the burning takes place outside the city limits of any incorporated area or municipality and at least 200 yards from the nearest inhabited dwelling. Materials such as tires or waste oil may not be used to start the fires or be burned in the fires.

Required Permits from DNR: Tree trunks, tree limbs, vegetation (excluding leaves or lawn clippings) or untreated waste lumber at a landfill, compost plant, transfer station or salvage operation can be burned, throughout the state, with an issued and valid open burning permit. The open burning permit requires the facility, in most cases, to use an Air Curtain Destructor (ACD).

NOTE

The Eureka Fire Protection District does issue ACD permits. An application can be filled out during normal business hours. The permit is regulated by the rules and regulations set forth by the DNR permit.

Managing Construction and Demolition Waste

Waste types

1. Clean fill;
2. Recoverable materials;
3. Regulated construction and demolition waste;
4. Hazardous materials; or
5. Asbestos-containing materials.

Clean fill is “uncontaminated soil, rock, sand, gravel, concrete, asphaltic concrete, cinderblocks, brick, minimal amounts of wood and metal and inert (nonreactive) solids. Under no circumstances are roofing shingles, sheet rock, wood waste or other construction and demolition wastes defined as clean fill.

Recoverable materials are those removed for reuse (lumber, doors, windows, bricks, cinder blocks, ceramic tile and glass) and those removed to be recycled into new products. Potentially recyclable construction and demolition wastes may include scrap metals, asphalt shingles, sheet rock, concrete, lumber, glass and electrical wire. Recyclables may not be collected and dumped on the ground while waiting for markets to develop.

Regulated construction and demolition wastes are those that are not used as clean fill and that are not being reused or recycled. They must not be burned. They must not be buried (except at a permitted landfill). They must not be hauled to private or public property and dumped or buried, even with the landowner’s permission.

Hazardous materials. Guidance for handling demolition waste containing lead-based paint or other heavy metals (such as cadmium or chromium) is available by calling the department’s Environmental Assistance office at 1-800-361-4827.

Asbestos. Contact the department’s Air Pollution Control Program’s Asbestos Unit at (573) 751-4817 for more specific information about managing asbestos-containing materials (ACM).

Penalties for illegal disposal of construction and demolition wastes

1. **Civil Penalties:** Any person who disposes of construction and demolition waste or allows the disposal of construction and demolition waste in an area not permitted for such disposal may be assessed a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 per day per violation (§260.210, RSMo).
2. **Criminal Penalties:** Any person who purposely or knowingly disposes of or causes the disposal of regulated quantities of construction and demolition waste or other solid waste may be prosecuted for violating the criminal provisions of §§260.211 and 260.212, RSMo. Convictions may include fines of \$20,000 or more, community service, and/or clean up of the illegally dumped waste. In some cases, persons convicted of illegal dumping have served time in jail. The Missouri Air Conservation Law and regulations provide for civil penalties of up to \$10,000 per day per violation for persons who violate the requirements for handling, packaging, transporting or disposing of ACM.

Managing Residential Waste

What is Residential Waste?

Residential waste is solid waste produced by routine household activities, such as paper waste and garbage from daily activities. This does not include home remodeling wastes, wastes from home businesses, durable goods such as old appliances, carpets or furniture, tires or other nonroutine household waste.

What About Household Hazardous Waste?

Almost every home contains household products that are hazardous, such as cleaning products, automotive products, paint and lawn and garden chemicals. Make sure all old household hazardous products being stored are in a non-leaking container that is clearly labeled. Under state and federal law, these materials are not excluded from on-site disposal with your other residential waste.

Where do I go for additional information?

DNR St. Louis Regional Office at (314) 416-2960
Solid Waste Management Program (SWMP) (573) 751-5401
Air Pollution Control Program (APCP) (573) 751-4817

For further information, please contact:

Eureka Fire Protection District

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