

Recreational Burning

The following are excerpts from NFPA 1 of the Florida Fire Prevention Code:

3.3.226 defines “Recreational Fire” as the noncommercial burning of materials other than rubbish for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, or similar purposes in which the fuel burned is not contained in an incinerator, a barbecue grill, or a barbecue pit, and the total fuel area is not exceeding 3 ft in diameter and 2 ft in height.

10.10.3 Outdoor Fires.

10.10.3.1 Outdoor fires shall not be built, ignited, or maintained in or upon hazardous fire areas, except by permit from the AHJ.

10.3.3.2 Permanent barbecues, portable barbecues, outdoor fireplaces, or grills shall not be used for the disposal of rubbish, trash, or combustible waste material.

10.10.4 Open Fires

10.10.4.1 Permitted open fires shall be located not less than 50 ft from any structure.

10.10.4.2 Burning hours shall be prescribed by the AHJ.

10.10.4.3 Recreational fires shall not be located within 25 ft of a structure or combustible material unless contained in an approved manner.

10.10.4.4 Conditions that could cause a fire to spread to within 25 ft of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

10.10.5 Fire Attendant

10.10.5.1 Open, recreational, and cooking fires shall be constantly attended by a competent person until such fire is extinguished.

10.10.5.2 This person shall have a garden hose connected to a water supply or other fire extinguishing equipment readily available for use.

Nassau County does not have a method of issuing permits for open burning however Florida Forestry Service does permit open burning for some land clearing operations in rural areas.

The following is from “Opening Burning Requirements” from the Florida DEP

Open Burning

Open Burning is defined by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as the burning of materials in such a manner that smoke is released directly into the air without going through a stack or chimney. Open burning includes activities such as pile burning, prescribed fire burning, and burning using an Air Curtain Incinerator (ACI).

Open burning is prohibited during a National Weather Service Air Stagnation Advisory or Air Pollution Episodes, or if Florida Forestry Service (FFS) has determined that weather conditions are unfavorable for safe burning.

Set back requirements: 25 ft from any wildlands, brush, or combustible structure, 50 ft from any paved public roadway, and 150 ft from any occupied building other than that owned or leased by the individual doing the burning.

Open Burning Allowed:

Residential

Yard Waste (leaves, shrub trimmings, grass clippings, palm fronds, and brush.)

Tree Cutting Debris (Trees, tree stumps, and tree limbs.)

- ✓ The materials are generated on residential premises of not more than two family units.
- ✓ Burning is conducted on the premises where the material was generated.
- ✓ Burning is conducted between the hours of 9:00 AM EST to one hour before sunset.
- ✓ Yard waste must be enclosed in a noncombustible container or a pile no greater than eight ft in diameter.
- ✓ Fire must be attended with fire extinguishing equipment ready at all times.
- ✓ Moisture and composition of material is favorable to good burning to minimize smoke.
- ✓ Prior to open burning of tree cutting debris, the person responsible for the burn must contact the Florida Forest Service regarding the planned burning activity.

Non-Residential

(Industrial, Commercial, Institutional, or Government Operations)

Land Clearing Debris

(Uprooted or cleared vegetation in connection with construction for buildings and rights-of-way, land development, or mineral operations.)

- ✓ Burning is restricted to the site where the debris was generated.
- ✓ Burning is conducted between the hours of 9:00 AM EST to one hour before sunset.
- ✓ Fire must be attended with fire extinguishing equipment ready at all times.
- ✓ Moisture and composition of material is favorable to good burning which will minimize smoke.
- ✓ Prior to open burning of land clearing debris, the person responsible for the burn must contact the FFS regarding the planned burning activity.
- ✓ Any other open burning of land clearing debris shall be conducted using an air curtain incinerator operated in compliance with the exemption criteria, or Rule 62-296.401, F.A.C.

Agricultural Operations

Agricultural burning in Florida is regulated by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS).

Storm Generated Debris

Open burning of storm generated debris consisting only of vegetative debris and untreated wood is allowed provided:

- ✓ The burning is under the authority of the local government responsible for clean-up activities following a storm.
- ✓ The burning is conducted using an air curtain incinerator operated in compliance with the exemption criteria or Rule 62-296.401, F.A.C.; or pile burns are conducted under the authority of the Florida Forest Service.

Recreational Burning – Open Burning

- ✓ No later than 10 days after the start of the open burning, the local government provide written notice to FDEP describing the materials, location and method of the burning and telephone number of the government contact.

Recreational Open Burning

Open burning of vegetative debris and untreated wood in campfire, ceremonial bonfire, outdoor fireplace, or other contained outdoor heating or cooking device, or on cold days for warming of outdoor workers is allowed. All fires must be attended.

Permit Required

Open burning in connection with industrial, commercial, institutional, or governmental operations is allowed by rules or when:

- ✓ Open burning is determined by FLDEP as the only method of disposal and is authorized by an air permit and,
- ✓ Such open burning does not involve any material prohibited from being burned.

Air Curtain Incinerators' owner or operator shall obtain appropriate authorization from FDEP prior to undertaking any activity for which such authorization is required, unless exempted by Rule 62-210.300, F.A.C.

Contacts for Questions About Open Burning:

FDEP can be contacted through:

- ✓ FDEP District Air Contacts <https://floridadep.gov/northeast/ne-permitting>
- ✓ Division of Air Resource Management Office of Business Planning, Tallahassee, Hastings Road, 850-717-9017

Florida Forest Service can be reached through the Florida Forest Service Field Headquarters for Nassau County at (904) 845-7121.