



## OPEN BURNING AND BURNING PERMITS

### WHEN IS A BURNING PERMIT REQUIRED?

Open burning in Cecil County is regulated under Maryland Department of the Environment Air Quality regulations and Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Fire Protection regulations. A burning permit is required for all open burning, except for small recreational fires such as campfires and for outdoor cooking of food. Burning in a barrel is considered to be open burning. Trash and refuse may not be burned at any time.

### WHAT ARE THE ALTERNATIVES TO BURNING?

For air quality and fire protection reasons, alternatives to open burning should be considered. Rather than burning leaves, they can be shredded, mowed or bagged, and used as mulch around plants or added to a compost pile. Likewise tree trimmings can be chipped and used as mulch, or left as a brush pile for wildlife habitat. Yard waste, including leaves, brush and wood, can also be taken to the Cecil County Central Landfill for recycling.

### HOW DO YOU APPLY FOR A BURNING PERMIT?

Permit applications are available on the Cecil County Health Department website at [www.cecilcountyhealth.org](http://www.cecilcountyhealth.org) or in person at the Environmental Health Services Division office. Residential and agricultural permits may be obtained for short term (90 day) or long term (one year) periods. Burning Permits can no longer be issued for commercial land clearing activities and land clearing debris must be disposed of under Maryland Department of the Environment Solid Waste Regulations. When an application is submitted, a site visit to the property is conducted to ensure that all requirements can be met prior to issuance of the permit.

### WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR OPEN BURNING?

- The burn site must be located at least 200 feet from any neighboring dwelling, roadway, or place where people work or congregate.
- There is a natural or constructed fire break (i.e., green grass or dirt) at least 10 feet wide completely around the material to be burned that is free of flammable materials.
- If the burn site is within 200 feet of woodland or flammable material which could ignite and carry fire to woodland, burning can only occur between 4:00 pm and midnight.
- Material to be burned must have originated on the premises.
- Materials permitted to be burned are dry brush, dry leaves and branches less than 6” in diameter. Treated or painted wood, poison ivy and poison sumac, and materials which produce dense smoke may not be burned.
- Adequate personnel and equipment must be present at the burn site to prevent fire from escaping until the last spark is out.
- A hazardous condition or nuisance may not be created – be aware of weather and wind conditions and considerate of neighbors.
- Prior to any burn the Dispatch Center of the Cecil County Department of Emergency Services must be notified at 410-392-2008 or 410-658-5555.
- **THERE IS A BURNING BAN IN EFFECT FOR AIR QUALITY REASONS FROM JUNE 1 THROUGH AUGUST 31 EACH YEAR. BURNING BANS DURING DRY CONDITIONS MAY ALSO BE IMPOSED BY THE MARYLAND FOREST SERVICE AT OTHER TIMES.**

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

- ▶ Cecil County Health Department, Environmental Health Services 410-996-5160
- ▶ Maryland Forest Service, Black Hill Ranger Station at 410-287-5777

5/2019

### Healthy People. Healthy Community. Healthy Future.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES . . . . .	410-996-5550	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES . . . . .	410-996-5160
ALCOHOL & DRUG RECOVERY CENTER . . . . .	410-996-5106	HEALTH PROMOTION . . . . .	410-996-5168
OFFICE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS . . . . .	410-996-5113	SPECIAL POPULATIONS MENTAL HEALTH C.S.A. . . . .	410-996-5112
COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES . . . . .	410-996-5130	TTY USERS FOR DISABLED: MARYLAND RELAY . . . . .	800-201-7165
DISEASE CONTROL . . . . .	410-996-5100	EN ESPAÑOL . . . . .	410-996-5550 EXT. 468

HEALTH DEPARTMENT TOLL FREE . . . 877-334-9985