

STATE OF WYOMING
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY – AIR QUALITY DIVISION

Emergency Open Burning Guide

Emergency open burns to eliminate a danger to public health, safety or the environment must request and receive a waiver of any or all requirements of Section 2 prior to conducting the burn. The WDEQ-AQD District Compliance staff will administer WAQSR Chapter 10, Section 2(d), ***Emergency open burning*** and are available to address emergency open burn requests during regular business hours. After regular business hours, a WDEQ Emergency Response contact is available to address emergency open burn requests. (See WDEQ-AQD Contact Information)

An emergency open burn waiver may be verbally requested from and approved by the WDEQ-AQD in advance of ignition. The open burner should outline the reasons that a waiver is justified and provide the following information:

- Open Burner Contact Information,
 - For the primary contact for the open burn provide: name, address, phone number, and fax and email if available. Also provide agency/company if applicable.
- Location of the Open Burn,
 - Provide the address and/or legal description (Section, Township, Range) as well as the County at which the burning will occur.
- Nearest Population,
 - Identify the nearest population (e.g., neighboring residence, workplace) on other property and the distance (in feet or miles) away from the burn location.
- Burn Schedule,
 - Indicate the date(s) and time(s) the open burn is expected to take place.
- Composition & Quantity of Material to be Burned,
 - Indicate the type of material as well as quantity (cubic feet, gallons, barrels, etc.).
- If prohibited materials have not been removed, state the reason as well as why they should be allowed to be burned,
- Reason no other disposal method than open burning can be used, and
- Any other pertinent information.

Once the WDEQ-AQD District Compliance staff receives the waiver request, it will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The WDEQ-AQD may grant waivers with certain conditions required (e.g., notify the jurisdictional fire authority, attend and observe the open burn, etc.), or may request additional information from the burner in order to determine waiver approval or denial.

The open burner shall also comply with all local (city and county), state and federal laws, regulations and ordinances relating to emergency open burning as well as any restrictions on burning issued by the city, county or state.

By conducting an emergency open burn, the open burner shall give permission to WDEQ-AQD staff to enter and inspect the burn location for the purpose of a burn inspection. This permission extends for a maximum time of ten business days after the emergency open burn is completed. Inspections during this 10-day period are to be conducted only after notification of the open burner.