

**STATE OF WYOMING**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY – AIR QUALITY DIVISION**

**Refuse Burning Guide**

The WDEQ-AQD District Compliance staff will administer WAQSR Chapter 10, Section 2(e), *Restrictions on refuse burning*. (See WDEQ-AQD Contact Information)

Refuse associated with dwelling units, farmsteads, or ranch headquarters may be burned only when all of the following conditions are met.

- ❑ The refuse is burned only on the property where it was generated.
- ❑ No refuse burning closer than 500 feet on other property to a neighboring residence, workplace, or other place where people congregate to minimize the impacts from smoke.
- ❑ Only burn during the daytime hours to minimize the impacts from smoke.
- ❑ Attend and observe the burn periodically to determine the smoke dispersion, direction and impacts so that corrective action (e.g., notifying neighboring residents and extinguishing the burn) can be taken if necessary.
- ❑ Comply with all local (city and county), state, and federal laws, regulations and ordinances relating to refuse burning.
- ❑ Comply with any restriction on burning issued by the city, county or state.
- ❑ By conducting a refuse burn, you shall give permission to WDEQ-AQD staff to enter and inspect the refuse burn location for the purpose of a burn inspection. This permission extends for a maximum time of ten business days after the refuse burn is completed. Inspections during this period are to be conducted only after notification of the burner.

The WDEQ-AQD does not require persons burning refuse from a household, farmstead or ranch headquarters to sort through the garbage prior to ignition of the burn. Nevertheless, the intent of this section of the regulation is to allow the burning of typical refuse, not to sanction burning of prohibited materials<sup>1</sup>, as defined in the footnote below.

Smoke and fumes from refuse burns are not just a nuisance, they can be extremely hazardous to your and your neighbors' health as well as the environment. Wyoming's residents are encouraged to explore other options than refuse burning available for refuse disposal. To learn more about the dangers of refuse burning and disposal alternatives, visit EPA's Backyard Burning website at <http://www.epa.gov/msw/backyard>.

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<sup>1</sup> WAQSR Chapter 10, Section 2(a)(v) "Prohibited materials" means substances including, but not limited to; natural or synthetic rubber products, including tires; waste petroleum products, such as oil or used oil filters; insulated wire; plastic products, including polyvinyl chloride ("PVC") pipe, tubing and connectors; tar, asphalt, asphalt shingles, or tar paper; railroad ties; wood, wood waste, or lumber that is painted or chemically treated; explosives or ammunition; batteries; hazardous waste products; asbestos or asbestos containing materials; or materials which cause dense smoke discharges, excluding refuse and flaring associated with oil and gas well testing, completions and well workovers.