

**INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT – IDEM
RULES GOVERNING OPEN BURNING IN INDIANA**

**626 IAC 4-1
IC 13-17-9**

According to state law, these rules **MUST ALWAYS** be followed:

- ** Only clean wood products may be burned. Wood products coated with stain, paint, glue or other coatings are not safe to burn.
- ** Burning must be done during safe weather conditions, not during high winds or on pollution alert days or ozone alert days.
- ** Fires must be attended until completely extinguished
- ** Burning must be done during daylight hours and extinguished prior to sunset
- ** Fire Fighting equipment adequate for the size of the fire must be nearby.
- ** Material may **ONLY** be burned in a noncombustible and ventilated container, such as a metal drum with enclosed sides and bottom. **BURING ON THE GROUND IS ILLEGAL.**
- ** Open burning is not allowed in mobile home parks, apartment or condominium complexes or buildings of more than four dwelling units.
- ** Fires **MUST BE EXTINGUISHED** if they create a fire hazard, nuisance, pollution problem or threat to public health.
- ** Burning **MUST COMPLY** with all other federal, state and local laws, rules and ordinances.

Only the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) can grant variances to Indiana's open burning rules. Fire Departments do not have authority to grant variances to 326 IAC 4-1 or IC 13-17-9. Do not be responsible for telling someone it's ok to burn. It puts an individual in a bad position if you provide incorrect information. If they want to apply for a variance to burn (no cost) refer them to IDEM at 317-233-5672.

Call IDEM at 800-451-6027 press "0" and ask for ext. 3-0178

The State does allow burning for:

- **Wildlife – Habitat Maintenance, Forest and National Area Management, and Fire Fighting or Prevention.
- ** Recreational and Ceremonial fires – barbecues, campfires and fires for scouting activities. Bonfires have size and time length limits they may burn. Local fire and health

departments MUST be notified prior to bonfires. Bonfires MAY NOT be used for disposal purposes.

****Some types of burning of vegetation from a FARM, ORCHARD, NURSERY, CEMETARY, TREE FARM, OR DRAINAGE DITCH. Please see 326 IAC-4-1 and IC 13-17-9 for the laws regarding this exemption.**

The State does not allow burning of hazardous materials:

****Burning household trash and outdoor waste, such as plastics and building materials, IS ILLEGAL. TIRES, TREATED WOOD, AND ASBESTOS PRODUCTS MAY NEVER BE BURNED.**

A variance or special approval may be requested from IDEM by calling (800) 451-6027, press zero and ask for ext. 3-0178.