

Caroline County Department of Fire-Rescue & Emergency Management

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Caroline County Burn Ordinance 2009

Chapter 72

OPEN BURNING REGULATIONS

Section 72-1. Title. This article shall be known as the Caroline County Ordinance for the Regulation of Open Burning.

Section 72-2. Purpose. The purpose of this article is to protect public health, safety, and welfare by regulating open burning within Caroline County to achieve and maintain, to the greatest extent practicable, a level of air quality that will provide comfort and convenience while promoting economic and social development. This article is intended to supplement the applicable regulations promulgated by the State Air Pollution Control Board and other applicable regulations and laws.

Section 72-3. Definitions. For the purpose of this article and subsequent amendments or any orders issued by Caroline County, the words or phrases shall have the meaning given them in this section.

"Automobile graveyard" means any lot or place that is exposed to the weather and upon which more than five motor vehicles of any kind, incapable of being operated, and that it would not be economically practical to make operative, are placed, located or found.

"Built-up area" means any area with a substantial portion covered by industrial, commercial or residential buildings.

"Clean burning waste" means waste that is not prohibited to be burned under this ordinance and that consists only of (i) 100% wood waste, (ii) 100% clean lumber or clean wood, (iii) 100% yard waste, or (iv) 100% mixture of only any combination of wood waste, clean lumber, clean wood or yard waste.

"Clean lumber" means wood or wood products that have been cut or shaped and include wet, air-dried, and kiln-dried wood products. Clean lumber does not include wood products that have been painted, pigment-stained, or pressure-treated by compounds such as chromate copper arsenate, pentachlorophenol, and creosote.

"Clean wood" means uncontaminated natural or untreated wood. Clean wood includes, but is not limited to, by-products of harvesting activities conducted for forest management or commercial logging, or mill residues consisting of bark, chips, edgings, sawdust, shavings or slabs. It does not include wood that has been treated, adulterated, or chemically changed in some way; treated with glues, binders or resins; or painted, stained or coated.

"Construction waste" means solid waste that is produced or generated during construction remodeling, or repair of pavements, houses, commercial buildings and other structures. Construction waste consists of lumber, wire, sheetrock, broken brick, shingles, glass, pipes, concrete, and metal and plastics if the metal or plastics are a part of the materials of construction or empty containers for such materials. Paints, coatings, solvents, asbestos, any liquid, compressed gases or semi-liquids, and garbage are not construction wastes and the disposal of such materials must be in accordance with the regulations of the Virginia Waste Management Board.

"Debris waste" means wastes resulting from land clearing operations. Debris wastes include but are not limited to stumps, wood, brush, leaves, soil and road spoils.

"Demolition waste" means that solid waste which is produced by the destruction of structures, or their foundations, or both, and includes the same materials as construction waste.

"Garbage" means readily putrescible discarded materials composed of animal, vegetable or other organic matter.

"Hazardous waste" means a "hazardous waste" as described in 9 VAC 20-60, Hazardous Waste Management Regulations.

"Household waste" means any waste material, including garbage, trash and refuse derived from households. For purposes of this regulation, households include single and multiple residences, hotels and motels, bunkhouses, ranger stations, crew quarters, campgrounds, picnic grounds and day-use recreation areas. Household wastes do not include sanitary waste in septic tanks (septage) which is regulated by state agencies.

"Industrial waste" any solid waste generated by manufacturing or industrial process that is not a regulated hazardous waste. Such waste may include but is not limited to waste resulting from the following manufacturing processes: electric power generation; fertilizer/agricultural chemicals; food and related products/by products; inorganic chemicals; iron and steel manufacturing; leather and leather products; nonferrous metals manufacturing/foundries; organic chemicals; plastics and resins manufacturing; pulp and paper industry; rubber and miscellaneous plastic products; stone, glass, clay and concrete products; textile manufacturing; transportation equipment; and water treatment. This term does not include mining waste or oil and gas waste.

"Junk" means old or scrap copper, brass, rope, rags, batteries, paper, trash, rubber, debris, waste, or junked, dismantled, or wrecked automobiles, or parts thereof, iron, steel, and other old or scrap ferrous or nonferrous material.

"Junkyard" means an establishment or place of business that is maintained, operated, or used for storing, keeping, buying, or selling junk, or for the maintenance or operation of an automobile graveyard, and the term shall include garbage dumps and sanitary landfills.

"Landfill" means a sanitary landfill, an industrial waste landfill, or a construction/demolition/debris landfill. See Solid Waste Management Regulations (9 VAC 20-80) for further definitions of these terms.

"Local landfill" means any landfill located within the jurisdiction of a local government.

"Open burning" means the combustion of solid waste without:

1. Control of combustion air to maintain adequate temperature for efficient combustion;
2. Containment of the combustion reaction in an enclosed device to provide sufficient residence time and mixing for complete combustion; and
3. Control of the combustion products' emission.

"Open pit incinerator" means a device used to burn waste for the primary purpose of reducing the volume by removing combustible matter. Such devices function by directing a curtain of air at an angle across the top of a trench or similarly enclosed space, thus reducing the amount of combustion byproducts emitted into the atmosphere. The term also includes trench burners, air curtain incinerators and over draft incinerators.

"Refuse" means all solid waste products having the characteristics of solids rather than liquids and which are composed wholly or partially of materials such as garbage, trash, rubbish, litter, residues from clean up of spills or contamination or other discarded materials.

"Salvage operation" means any operation consisting of a business, trade or industry participating in salvaging or reclaiming any product or material, such as, but not limited to, reprocessing of used motor oils, metals, chemicals, shipping containers or drums, and specifically including automobile graveyards and junkyards.

"Sanitary landfill" means an engineered land burial facility for the disposal of household waste that is so located, designed, constructed, and operated to contain and isolate the waste so that it does not pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment. A sanitary landfill also may receive other types of solid wastes, such as commercial solid waste, nonhazardous sludge, hazardous waste from conditionally exempt small quantity generators, construction, demolition, or debris

waste and nonhazardous industrial solid waste. See Solid Waste Management Regulations (9 VAC 20-80) for further definitions of these terms.

"Smoke" means small gas-borne particulate matter consisting mostly, but not exclusively, of carbon, ash and other material in concentrations sufficient to form a visible plume.

"Special incineration device" means an open pit incinerator, conical or teepee burner, or any other device specifically designed to provide good combustion performance.

"Wood waste" means untreated wood and untreated wood products, including tree stumps (whole or chipped), trees, tree limbs (whole or chipped), bark, sawdust, chips, scraps, slabs, millings, and shavings. Wood waste does not include:

1. Grass, grass clippings, bushes, shrubs, and clippings from bushes and shrubs from residential, commercial/retail, institutional, or industrial sources as part of maintaining yards or other private or public lands.
2. Construction, renovation, or demolition wastes.
3. Clean lumber.

"Yard waste" means grass, grass clippings, bushes, shrubs, and clippings from bushes and shrubs that come from residential, commercial/retail, institutional, or industrial sources as part of maintaining yards or other private or public lands. Yard waste does not include (i) construction, renovation, and demolition wastes or (ii) clean wood.

Section 72-4. Prohibitions on open burning.

A. No owner or other person shall cause or permit open burning or the use of a special incineration device for the destruction of refuse except as provided in this ordinance.

B. No owner or other person shall cause or permit open burning or the use of a special incineration device for the destruction of rubber tires, asphaltic materials, crankcase oil, impregnated wood or other rubber or petroleum based materials except when conducting bona fide fire fighting instruction at fire fighting training schools having permanent facilities.

C. No owner or other person shall cause or permit open burning or the use of a special incineration device for the destruction of hazardous waste or containers for such materials.

D. No owner or other person shall cause or permit open burning or the use of a special incineration device for the purpose of a salvage operation or for the destruction of commercial/industrial waste.

E. Open burning or the use of special incineration devices permitted under the provisions of this ordinance does not exempt or excuse any owner or other person from the consequences, liability, damages or injuries that may result from such conduct; nor does it excuse or exempt any owner or other person from complying with other applicable laws, ordinances, regulations and orders of the governmental entities having jurisdiction, even though the open burning is conducted in compliance with this ordinance. In this regard special attention should be directed to § 10.1-1142 of the Forest Fire Law of Virginia, the regulations of the Virginia Waste Management Board, and the State Air Pollution Control Board's Regulations for the Control and Abatement of Air Pollution.

F. Upon declaration of an alert, warning or emergency stage of an air pollution episode as described in 9 VAC 5 Chapter 70 (9 VAC 5-70) or when deemed advisable by the State Air Pollution Control Board to prevent a hazard to, or an unreasonable burden upon, public health or welfare, no owner or other person shall cause or permit open burning or use of a special incineration device; and any in process burning or use of special incineration devices shall be immediately terminated in the designated air quality control region.

Section 72-5. Exemptions. The following activities are exempted to the extent covered by the State Air Pollution Control Board's Regulations for the Control and Abatement of Air Pollution:

A. Open burning for training and instruction of government and public fire fighters under the supervision of the designated official and industrial in-house fire fighting personnel;

B. Open burning for camp fires or other fires that are used solely for recreational purposes, for ceremonial occasions, for outdoor noncommercial preparation of food, and for warming of outdoor workers;

C. Open burning for the destruction of any combustible liquid or gaseous material by burning in a flare or flare stack;

D. Open burning for forest management and agriculture practices approved by the State Air Pollution Control Board; and

E. Open burning for the destruction of classified military documents.

Section 72-6. Permissible open burning.

A. Open burning is permitted on-site for the destruction of leaves and tree, yard and garden trimmings located on the premises of private property, provided that the conditions are met:

1. The burning takes place on the premises of the private property; (and)
2. The location of the burning is not less than 300 feet from any occupied building unless the occupants have given prior permission, other than a building located on the property on which the burning is conducted(; and
3. **The responsible party notifies the Emergency Communications Center of the date, time and location of the open burning.** No regularly scheduled public or private collection service for such trimmings is available at the adjacent street or public road¹).

B. Open burning is permitted on-site for the destruction of household waste by homeowners or tenants, provided that *subject to* the following conditions are met:

1. The burning takes place on the premises of the dwelling;
2. Animal carcasses or animal wastes are not burned;
3. Garbage is not burned; (and)
4. The location of the burning is not less than 300 feet from any occupied building unless the occupants have given prior permission, other than a building located on the property on which the burning is conducted(; and
5. **The responsible party notifies the Emergency Communications Center of the date, time and location of the open burning.**
5. No regularly scheduled public or private collection service for such refuse is available at the adjacent street or public road²).

C. Open burning is permitted on-site for destruction of debris waste resulting from property maintenance, from the development or modification of roads and highways, parking areas, railroad tracks, pipelines, power and communication lines, buildings or building areas, sanitary landfills, or from any other clearing operations that may be approved by Director, provided *subject to* the following conditions are met:

¹This provision shall be included in ordinances for urban areas. It may be included in ordinances for non-urban areas.

²This provision shall be included in ordinances for urban areas. It may be included in ordinances for non-urban areas.

1. All reasonable effort shall be made to minimize the amount of material burned, with the number and size of the debris piles approved by Director;
2. The material to be burned shall consist of brush, stumps and similar debris waste and shall not include demolition material;
3. The burning shall be at least 500 feet from any occupied building unless the occupants have given prior permission, other than a building located on the property on which the burning is conducted;
4. The burning shall be conducted at the greatest distance practicable from highways and air fields,
5. The burning shall be attended at all times and conducted to ensure the best possible combustion with a minimum of smoke being produced;
6. The burning shall not be allowed to smolder beyond the minimum period of time necessary for the destruction of the materials; and
7. The burning shall be conducted only when the prevailing winds are away from any city, town or built-up area.

D. Open burning is permitted for destruction of debris on the site of local landfills provided that the burning does not take place on land that has been filled and covered so as to present an underground fire hazard due to the presence of methane gas provided that the following conditions are met:

1. The burning shall take place on the premises of a local sanitary landfill that meets the provisions of the regulations of the Virginia Waste Management Board;
2. The burning shall be attended at all times;
3. The material to be burned shall consist only of brush, tree trimmings, yard and garden trimmings, clean burning waste, clean burning debris waste, or clean burning demolition waste;
4. All reasonable effort shall be made to minimize the amount of material that is burned;
5. No materials may be burned in violation of the regulations of the Virginia Waste Management Board or the State Air Pollution Control Board. The exact site of the burning on a local landfill shall be established in coordination with the regional director and Director; no other site shall be used without the approval of these officials. The **Director** shall be notified of the days during which the burning will occur.

³This provision shall be included in ordinances for jurisdictions within volatile organic compound emissions control areas. It may be included in ordinances for jurisdictions outside these areas.

(E. Sections 000-6.A. through D. notwithstanding, no owner or other person shall cause or permit open burning or the use of a special incineration device during May, June, July, August, or September.³)

Section 72-7. Permits.

A. When open burning of debris waste (Section 72-6 C.) or open burning of debris on the site of a local landfill (Section 72-6.D.) is to occur within Caroline County, the person responsible for the burning shall obtain a permit from the **Director of Fire and Rescue (Director)** prior to the burning. Such a permit may be granted only after confirmation by the **Director** that the burning can and will comply with the provisions of this ordinance and any other conditions that are deemed necessary to ensure that the burning will not endanger the public health and welfare or to ensure compliance with any applicable provisions of the State Air Pollution Control Board's Regulations for the Control and Abatement of Air Pollution. The permit may be issued for each

occasion of burning or for a specific period of time deemed appropriate by the **Director**.

B. Prior to the initial installation (or reinstallation, in cases of relocation) and operation of special incineration devices, the person responsible for the burning shall obtain a permit from the **Director**, such permits to be granted only after confirmation by the **Director** that the burning can and will comply with the applicable provisions in Regulations for the Control and Abatement of Air Pollution and that any conditions are met that are deemed necessary by the **Director** to ensure that the operation of the devices will not endanger the public health and welfare. Permits granted for the use of special incineration devices shall at a minimum contain the following conditions:

1. All reasonable effort shall be made to minimize the amount of material that is burned. Such efforts shall include, but are not limited to, the removal of pulpwood, saw logs and firewood.
2. The material to be burned shall consist of brush, stumps and similar debris waste and shall not include demolition material.
3. The burning shall be at least 300 feet from any occupied building unless the occupants have given prior permission, other than a building located on the property on which the burning is conducted; burning shall be conducted at the greatest distance practicable from highways and air fields. If the **Director** determines that it is necessary to protect public health and welfare, he may direct that any of the above cited distances be increased.
4. The burning shall be attended at all times and conducted to ensure the best possible combustion with a minimum of smoke being produced. Under no

circumstances should the burning be allowed to smolder beyond the minimum period of time necessary for the destruction of the materials.

5. The burning shall be conducted only when the prevailing winds are away from any city, town or built-up area.

6. The use of special incineration devices shall be allowed only for the destruction of debris waste, clean burning construction waste, and clean burning demolition waste.

7. Permits issued under this subsection shall be limited to a specific period of time deemed appropriate by the **Director**.

C. There shall be no cost for a permit under Section 72-7.A. or 72-7.B.

Section 72-8. Penalties for violation.

A. Any violation of this ordinance is punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor, in accordance with § 15.2-1429 of the Code of Virginia.

B. Each separate incident may be considered a new violation.