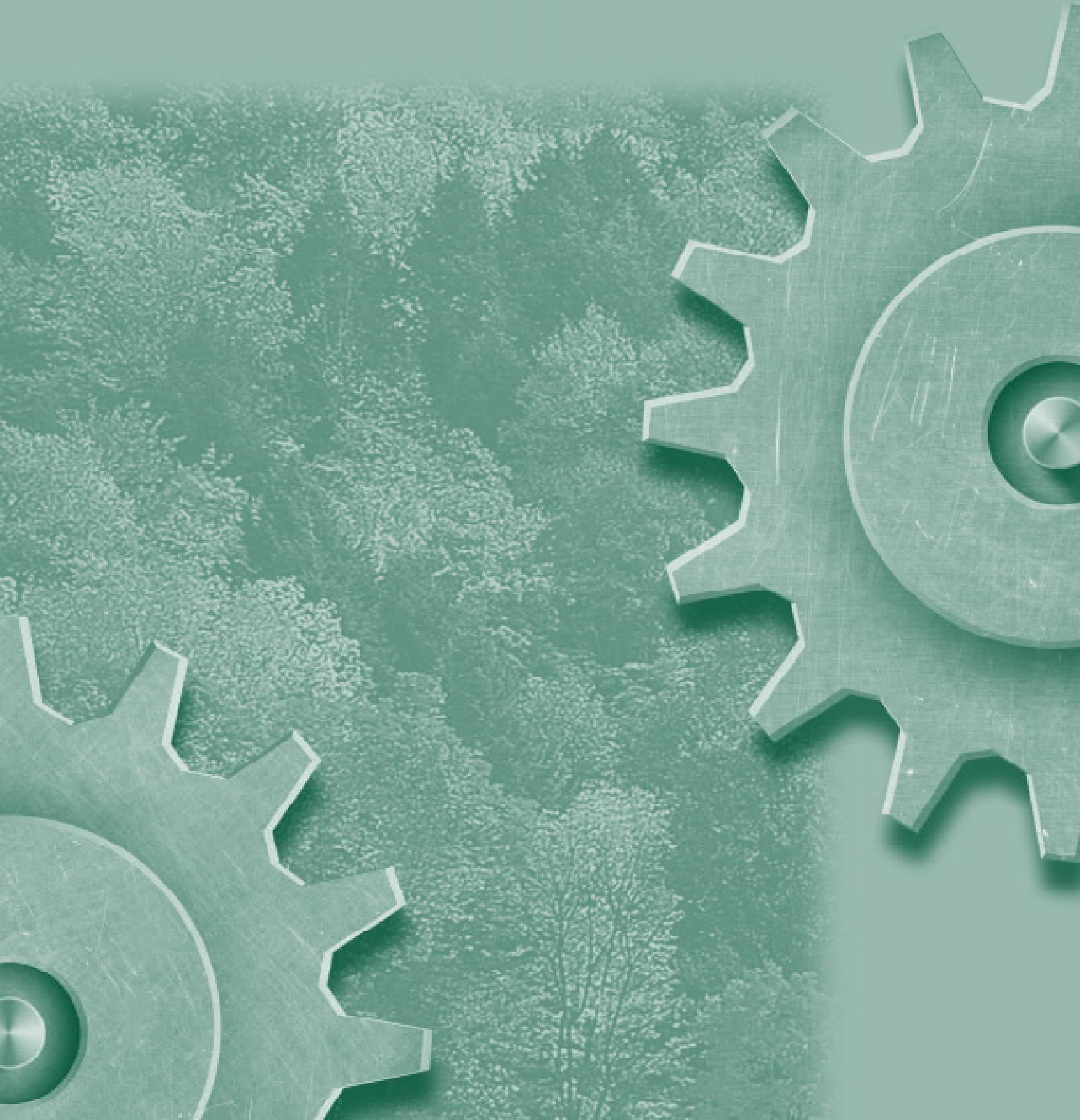


# Outdoor Burning

**CHAPTER 22**



# Outdoor Burning

## Program Assistance

**Authorization to burn**—Call the TNRCC regional office that serves your county to notify them of a planned burn or, in certain circumstances, to obtain authorization to burn.

**Outdoor burning rule**—To obtain the rule, call publications staff at 512/239-0028 and order *Outdoor Burning in Texas* (RG-49), or go to the TNRCC Web site and use the Rules menu to select the rule, which is found in 30 TAC Sections 111.201–221.

**Web site**—[www.tnrcc.state.tx.us](http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us).

## Levels of Authority

### STATE

As the state regulatory agency charged with safeguarding air quality, the TNRCC regulates outdoor burning. The TNRCC's Outdoor Burning Rule provides a basic framework for the sensible regulation of outdoor burning throughout the state. The rule prohibits outdoor burning in general, but then allows for its use under certain exceptions (see “Exceptions to the Rule”). The rule also gives general requirements that must be met whenever most allowable outdoor burning occurs (see “General Requirements for Burning”).

Generally, exceptions other than those stated in the rule are allowed only when there is no practical alternative. As the concerns associated with burning vary widely across the state, the TNRCC delegates primary responsibility for administering the Outdoor Burning Rule to its local regional offices.

State authority on outdoor burning limits the actions of local governments as well as individuals and private enterprises. For example, the Outdoor Burning Rule restricts local governments in their use of burning to dispose of brush and waste. The rule also

calls for agencies and companies that train firefighters to give notice when they plan to use outdoor burning for that purpose (see Table 22-1 in this chapter).

In addition to regulating burning, the Outdoor Burning Rule prohibits the outdoor disposal or deposition of any material that can ignite spontaneously, except for the storage of coal, unless specifically authorized by the TNRCC.

### LOCAL

The Outdoor Burning Rule was drafted with the necessary cooperation of local and state governments in mind. For that reason, municipalities and counties have the authority to further restrict or prohibit outdoor burning, especially regarding concerns for public safety and nuisance conditions. Local ordinances should be framed to supplement the state rule as necessary to meet local needs. To support local authority, the TNRCC encourages individuals and businesses to check local regulations on outdoor burning even when the state rule allows the practice. Local regulations may not, however, permit outdoor burning under circumstances in which state law does not allow it.

There is only one common instance in which local regulations on burning may not be stricter than state law: A local government may not prohibit residents from using outdoor burning to dispose of household waste unless the local governmental entity that has jurisdiction over waste disposal provides (on its own or through an authorized contractor) on-premises trash collection service.

Other circumstances also may arise in which state authority would supersede a stricter local burning ordinance. For example, if an accident causes a truckload of diesel fuel to be spilled near a sensitive body of water, the TNRCC might protect the body of water by ordering that the spilled fuel be burned. A local ordinance against the open burning of hydrocarbons would have no impact on the decision. Otherwise, local governments may enact and enforce stricter restrictions on burning.

## Program Requirements

The Outdoor Burning Rule covers virtually all kinds of outdoor fires in Texas. Three provisions of the rule apply mainly to local governments:

- Outdoor burning may not be used to dispose of municipal solid waste.
- A county or municipal government may burn brush that is collected at a site it owns after obtaining site and burn approval from the local TNRCC regional office. To obtain this approval, the local government must prove that there is no practical alternative and that burning is necessary to protect health and safety.
- Any entity that uses outdoor burning to train firefighters must satisfy certain notification requirements (see Table 22-1).

Beyond those concerns, the rule pertains equally to local governments, individuals, businesses, and other entities.

## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BURNING

The Outdoor Burning Rule sets the following general requirements for allowable outdoor burning. They are designed to reduce the likelihood that burning will create a nuisance, cause a hazard, or harm the environment.

1. Notify the Texas Forest Service before carrying out any prescribed or controlled burns that are intended for forest management.
2. Burn only outside the corporate limits of a city or town, unless the incorporated city or town has an ordinance that permits burning and is consistent with Subchapter E of the Texas Clean Air Act (Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 382).
3. Begin or continue burning only when the wind direction and other weather conditions are such that the smoke and other pollutants will not present a hazard to any public road, landing strip, or navigable water (for example, a lake, river, stream, or bay) or have an adverse effect on any off-site structure containing “sensitive receptors” (for example, a residence, business, farm building, or greenhouse).
4. Post someone to flag traffic if at any time the burning causes or may tend to cause smoke to blow onto or across a road or highway.
5. Keep fires downwind of or at least 300 feet away from any neighboring structure that contains sensitive receptors. This requirement may be waived only with the prior written approval of whoever owns or rents the adjacent property and either resides or conducts business there.
6. Begin burning no earlier than one hour after sunrise, end it the same day and no later than one hour before sunset, and make sure that a responsible party is present while the burn is active and the fire is progressing. At the end of



the burn, extinguish isolated residual fires or smoldering objects if the smoke they produce can be a nuisance or a traffic hazard. Don't start burning unless weather conditions are appropriate for smoke to dissipate (winds of at least 6 miles per hour; no temperature inversions) and for you to be able to control the fire (winds no faster than 23 miles per hour).

7. Don't burn any electrical insulation, treated lumber, plastics, construction or demolition materials not made of wood, heavy oils, asphaltic materials, potentially explosive materials, chemical wastes, or items that contain natural or synthetic rubber.

In addition to meeting these requirements, outdoor burning must not cause a nuisance condition or traffic hazard according to 30 TAC Sections 101.4 and 101.5. The authority to conduct burning under the Outdoor Burning Rule does not exempt or excuse any person responsible for the consequences, damages, or injuries resulting from the burning and does not exempt or excuse anyone from complying with all other applicable laws or ordinances, regulations, and orders of governmental entities having jurisdiction, even though the burning is otherwise conducted in compliance with this regulation.

A city or town may draft its own ordinance to regulate outdoor burning if the requirements stated above do not meet its needs. (Note that most of the allowed exceptions to the Outdoor Burning Rule are applicable only outside the corporate limits of a city or town.) Local restrictions on burning must be in the form of one or more ordinances and may not supersede state law.

## **Exceptions to the Rule**

Five broad categories cover the exceptions to the general ban on outdoor burning: firefighter training; fires for ceremony, cooking, or warmth; fires for disposal or land clearing; prescribed burns; and oil or hydrocarbon spills. Each category is described in detail below.

### ***Firefighter Training***

Agencies and businesses that conduct firefighter training may obtain authorization to conduct outdoor burning for training. To obtain the authorization, the entity responsible for the training must send a written request to the local air pollution control agency or, if there is no such agency, the TNRCC regional office.

If training occurs regularly at a dedicated facility, it may be possible to notify the regional office of all such training events with one annual written request. If a dedicated training facility conducts training regularly but less frequently than weekly, a telephone or fax notification will be necessary 24 hours in advance of each event.

The TNRCC may revoke this authorization if it is used in an attempt to avoid complying with other portions of the Outdoor Burning Rule. Otherwise, burning conducted to train firefighters does not have to conform with the general requirements for other forms of allowable outdoor burning

### ***Fires for Recreation, Ceremony, Cooking, or Warmth***

Outdoor burning is allowed when used solely for recreational or ceremonial purposes, in the noncommercial preparation of food, or exclusively as a means to provide warmth in cold weather. In other words, campfires, bonfires, and cooking fires are allowed. Fires built under this exception may not contain electrical insulation, treated lumber, plastics, construction or demolition materials not made of wood, heavy oils, asphaltic materials, potentially explosive materials, chemical wastes, or items containing natural or synthetic rubber. The other general requirements on allowable outdoor burning do not apply to fires covered by this exception.

### ***Fire for Disposal or Land Clearing***

This broad exception covers the five more specific categories described below.

**Domestic waste**—Residents may burn domestic waste—in other words, household trash or rubbish—when the local

**TABLE 22-1. OUTDOOR BURNING: WHEN SHOULD YOU NOTIFY THE TNRCC?**

PURPOSE OF BURNING	NOTIFY THE TNRCC...		NOTIFY ANYONE ELSE?	SUBSECTION NO.
	IN WRITING...	ORALLY...		
<b>FIRE TRAINING</b>				
Statewide	10 working days prior	Not required	1	111.205(a)
Dedicated facility, used at least once per week	Annual required	Not required	1	111.205(b)
Dedicated facility, used less frequently	Annual required	Required; must be 24 hours before event	1	111.205(c)
<b>DISPOSAL</b>				
Domestic waste	Not required	Not required	2	111.209(1)
Diseased animal carcasses	Not required	Not required	2	111.209(2)
On-site, clearing	When possible	When possible	2,4	111.209(3)
Crop residue	When possible	When possible	2,4	111.209(4)
Brush, off-site, by county or city	Get prior approval	When possible	2,4	111.209(5)
<b>PRESCRIBED BURNS</b>				
Other than coastal salt marsh	When possible	When possible	2,3,4	111.211(1)
Coastal salt marsh	15 working days prior	Required	4	111.211(2)
<b>OTHER</b>				
Oil spills	Upset notification	Required	2,5	111.213
Ceremonial fires	Not required	Not required	2	111.207

*Note: This table shows notification requirements only. See also the general requirements for allowable burning.*

1. *If there is a local air pollution control agency, notify that agency.*
2. *Check local ordinances, and notify any other governmental entity having jurisdiction over the area—for example, the county fire marshal, local fire department, or local law enforcement officials.*
3. *Notify the Texas Forest Service before conducting prescribed burns for forest management.*
4. *Before conducting the burn, determine whether any “structures containing sensitive receptors” (for example, residences, greenhouses, stables, etc.) are within 300 feet of and in the general direction downwind from the site of the burn. If so, obtain written permission from the occupants or operators of those structures before you begin the burn.*
5. *See Chapter 19, “Emergency Response,” for more information about oil spill reporting requirements.*





governmental entity that has jurisdiction over such matters does not provide on-premises trash collection service or authorize a business or other entity to provide that service. To qualify for this exception, the waste must come from a property that is both designed to be a private residence and used exclusively as a private residence for no more than three families. The waste must also be burned on the property where it was produced. Under the rule, domestic waste includes those wastes that normally result from the function of life within a residence—for example, kitchen garbage, untreated lumber, cardboard boxes, packaging, clothing, grass, leaves, and branch trimmings. Such things as tires, construction debris that is not wood, furniture, carpet, electrical wire, and appliances are not considered to be domestic waste and cannot be burned. Other conditions of the general requirements for outdoor burning do not apply to the burning of domestic waste, but the practice may not cause a nuisance condition or traffic hazard.

**Diseased animal carcasses**—These may be burned when burning is the most effective means of controlling the spread of disease. The general requirements for outdoor burning do not apply to this exception.

**Maintenance or land clearing**—Trees, brush, and other plant growth may be burned to maintain rights-of-way, clear land, or maintain the banks of water canals when there is no practical alternative and when the materials are generated only from the property on which the burning occurs. Burning carried out under this exception must conform with all of the general requirements for outdoor burning and may not produce adverse effects for structures containing sensitive receptors—for example, occupied buildings, barns, or greenhouses.

**Crop residues**—When there is no practical alternative, crop residues may be burned for agricultural management. This burning must meet the same conditions as maintenance burns, unless an administrative order specifically for the crop in question establishes other conditions.

### **Brush, trees, and so forth, off-site—**

A county or municipal government may request site and burn approval from the TNRCC regional office to burn accumulations of brush, trees, and other plant growth that cause a condition detrimental to public health and safety. The burn must occur at a site owned by the local government and may be authorized only when there is no practical alternative. Such burns may be done no more frequently than every two months, and may not be used in place of other sound brush management practices. Burning conducted under this exception must conform to the general requirements for outdoor burning. The burning may not occur at a municipal solid waste landfill without obtaining permission from the TNRCC beforehand.

### **Prescribed Burns**

This exception covers the use of fire to manage forests, rangeland, wildland and wildlife, and, in 14 counties, coastal salt-marsh. All of these forms of burning are subject to the general requirements for allowed burning. Coastal salt-marsh burning also entails more specific notification requirements, which are stated in Subsections 111.211(2)(A) and (B).

### **Pipeline Breaks and Oil Spills**

Under these circumstances, the spill itself may trigger a requirement to notify the appropriate TNRCC regional office. See “State Reporting” in Chapter 19 for more information about state agencies and their jurisdictions with respect to spill reporting. Once notified of the spill, the TNRCC regional office staff will decide whether burning is necessary to protect the public welfare. If permission to burn is given, sampling and monitoring to determine and evaluate environmental impacts also may be required.

### **Other Situations**

If a situation seems to require outdoor burning but is not covered by the exceptions stated previously, TNRCC permission to burn may be requested. In considering

whether to approve such a request, the regional office staff, acting on behalf of the executive director, will consider whether there is a practical alternative, whether the burning will cause or contribute to a nuisance or traffic hazard, and whether the practice will violate any federal or state primary or secondary ambient air quality standard. Such an authorization may require that certain procedures be followed to control or abate emissions. The authorization may be revoked at any time if the burning is found to cause a nuisance, violate any provision of an applicable permit, cause a violation of any air quality standard, or not conform with the specified conditions.

## COUNTY BURN BANS

Counties have the statutory authority to impose burn bans for public health and safety. Individuals must comply with local regulations, including county burn bans, when local regulations are stricter than state regulations. The burn ban law (HB2620) identifies only three situations that may be exempt from the county burn bans: firefighter training; public utility, natural gas pipeline or mining operation; or harvesting of agricultural crops.

The TNRCC interprets these burn ban exemptions as follows:

- Outdoor burning for firefighter training may be authorized during a burn ban provided that approval is obtained from the local government issuing the burn ban and also from the authority as described in Section 111.205 of the Outdoor Burning Rule.
- Public utilities and others may be authorized to use outdoor burning for maintenance or disposal along a right-of-way during a burn ban only when there is a bona fide public health and safety issue such as might occur when windstorm damage debris must be cleared from an electric utility right-of-way. Disposal for economic or convenience reasons can be delayed until the seriousness of the fire danger has passed.

- Burning related to agricultural crops during a ban would be authorized only when the burning is absolutely necessary and intrinsic to the harvesting of an existing crop, such as is the case with sugarcane production. Authorization would not be granted for post-harvest burning, or burning related to preparation for subsequent planting.

## PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVES TO BURNING

The Outdoor Burning Rule defines a practical alternative as “an economically, technologically, ecologically, and logistically viable option.” The following methods can sometimes serve as practical alternatives to burning as a means to dispose of waste. With creative thinking and the help of the local TNRCC regional office, your community may be able to propose still other ways for residents and businesses to avoid burning waste.

**Recycling**—Manually or mechanically separate salvageable metals from other material, and sell them at a salvage yard.

**Composting**—Wastes from landscape maintenance can often be composted on a site easily and cleanly. Other similar wastes—even paper, in some instances—can be composted under the right conditions.

**Mechanical chipping or mulching**—This could be the first step in composting wastes, or the mulch that is produced could be put to use for soil enrichment and moisture retention. Many communities have saved money in park maintenance expenses by using mulch produced from waste brush. If the material cannot be used as a landscape mulch, chipping can still be useful to reduce the volume of waste that must be disposed of by some other means.

**Logging**—Timber can sometimes be converted to a marketable product—lumber, pulp, or firewood—as one way to reduce the costs of disposal. The remaining small limbs and brush are then much easier to dispose of through one of the other alternatives.



**Landfills**—Some landfills have recycling centers, with chippers for wood waste and collection bins for paper, plastic, and glass. Type IV landfills accept brush.

**Trench burning**—Portable devices known as trench burners or air curtain destructors can be used to dispose of brush or untreated lumber with minimized emissions. Many trench burner contractors and distributors provide leasing services. Contact the nearest TNRCC regional office for a list of local contractors.

## In Addition

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The questions in this section were compiled by the TNRCC regional offices. The general public and the regulated community frequently ask these questions about outdoor burning. The answers may be of interest to local officials who face similar questions, as they can ensure that their replies are consistent with state rules.

#### General Questions

***How do I obtain a burning permit from the TNRCC?***

You don't. The TNRCC does not issue burning permits. Outdoor burning in general is prohibited in the state of Texas, although the TNRCC Outdoor Burning Rule does allow certain exceptions. If your situation fits all requirements for one of the exceptions described in the rule, you may conduct burning, as long as you comply with the burn conditions specified in the rule. Depending on the circumstances, you may also need the approval of the appropriate regional office before you burn. Remember to also check local ordinances or other regulations about burning. (See the next question for further details.)

***My situation doesn't fit any of the exceptions given in the rule, but I still think that burning is the only practical alternative. What can I do?***

Submit a written request to the TNRCC regional office that serves the area where you think you need to conduct outdoor burning. Acting on behalf of the executive director, the regional staff will review your request and try to find a practical alternative. If they agree that none can be found, they will provide you a written authorization to burn that outlines specific conditions you must follow to control the emissions.

***The rule authorizes (or the TNRCC has authorized) my outdoor burning. Before I actually set the fire, do I have to notify the TNRCC?***

It depends. For certain types of burning, you must notify the TNRCC regional office. For others, you don't have to notify the TNRCC. But before you strike that match, remember that you may also have to contact other agencies—or even your neighbors—as well as the TNRCC. See Table 22-1 for the notification requirements for the various kinds of burning covered under the rule.

Even if the rule doesn't require you to notify the TNRCC, you will find that the local regional office has up-to-date information about weather conditions and other factors you should consider before doing any outdoor burning—for example, which way (and how fast) the wind is blowing, whether winds are expected to shift, whether your area is under a temperature inversion, the exact local time of sunrise or sunset, and whether high ozone levels are forecast. Notifying your regional office will also enable them to properly respond to reports of smoke and fire.

***It looks like I can get the TNRCC's approval to burn, but my neighbors may complain. Do I have to worry about what they think?***

Yes, you might. Besides the issue of common courtesy, the Outdoor Burning Rule



requires that certain kinds of burning be conducted downwind of or at least 300 feet from any structure containing sensitive receptors (for example, a residence, business, barn, or greenhouse) located on adjacent properties unless written approval is obtained beforehand from the owner or occupant—the one who will suffer adverse effects—of the adjacent or downwind property.

***We are burning in compliance with TNRCC regulations, but the local fire marshal objects. Is our compliance with state rules not enough?***

Your compliance with TNRCC regulations does not mean that other, stricter laws, regulations, or ordinances cannot be enforced by city, county, or other governmental entities. You must comply with all such regulations as well as the TNRCC rules.

***How do I report somebody who is conducting illegal outdoor burning?***

Report the burning to the local air pollution control office, or the nearest TNRCC regional office.

## **Firefighter Training**

***We want to conduct fire training for our volunteer fire department (VFD). Can we burn this abandoned house?***

The training of firefighters may be authorized as an exception to the prohibition on outdoor burning. To qualify, submit a written request on behalf of the VFD to the local air pollution control agency, or, if there is no local agency, the nearest TNRCC regional office. Authorization may be granted orally or in writing. According to the rule, the burning shall be authorized unless your VFD receives a notice of denial within 10 working days after the date of the postmark or the date of personal delivery of the request. (Working days do not include Saturdays, Sundays, or state or federal holidays.) The TNRCC regional office would have to consider the question of burning an abandoned house for training on a case-by-case basis. To ensure that the fire would not

cause the formation or dispersion of toxic substances, the building would have to be stripped of many common construction materials—including electrical wiring, lead flashing, carpet, asbestos, and many others—before the fire could be ignited.

## **Fires for Disposal**

***What may be burned at municipal solid waste landfills?***

No routine burning is allowed at municipal solid waste landfills, unless otherwise authorized by the TNRCC in writing.

***I have some uncleared property inside the city limits that I would like to develop. Hauling the trees and brush off would not be practical because it is too expensive. May I dispose of the trees and brush by burning?***

Unless the county or municipal government has enacted ordinances that permit burning consistent with state law, this situation does not meet any of the exceptions to the prohibition on outdoor burning. You may need to consider alternatives such as chipping or trench burning. If there is no practical alternative, you may request written permission from the TNRCC for authorization to burn. Such requests are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Contact the appropriate TNRCC regional office for guidance.

***Why are housing subdivisions allowed to dig pits and burn their land clearing materials within city limits?***

They are using a process called air curtain trench burning, which is authorized under a standard exemption. Companies that specialize in that business must obtain prior TNRCC site approval and follow specific written operating procedures.

***I am in the business of trimming people's trees and shrubs in town. I realize that the tree limbs and trimmings can't be burned in town, but I own some land outside of town. May I take it out there and burn it?***

No. The Outdoor Burning Rule allows the burning of land clearing materials only



at the site where the land clearing is done. In order to burn under state law, that site must be outside of municipal corporate limits, unless the city or town has an ordinance that permits burning and is consistent with state law.

***There are tree limbs in an area of our community that pose a public safety risk. What are our options for solving this problem?***

Brush, trees, and other forms of plant growth that present a detriment to public health and safety may be burned by a county or municipal government at a site it owns upon receiving site and burn approval from the TNRCC. Such burning can only be authorized when there is no practical alternative, and it may be done no more than once every two months. The local government has the burden of proving that there is no practical alternative and that the growth poses a detriment to public health or safety. This procedure may not be used continually as a standard operating procedure to augment the normal brush disposal process. Such burning cannot be conducted at municipal solid waste landfills unless authorized in writing by the TNRCC.

***A bad storm knocked a lot of trees down in our community. May we burn the debris? May we haul it to the landfill and burn it?***

Regardless of whether the brush is to be burned on site or at the landfill, this type of burning is not specifically authorized in the exceptions to the prohibition on outdoor burning. However, an authorization to dispose of storm debris may be granted if there are no practical alternatives. Such requests are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Contact the appropriate TNRCC regional office for guidance.

***May I burn trees that I have cut down in my backyard?***

Grass, leaves, and hedge and branch trimmings from residences are all considered to be “domestic waste.” If your local government does not provide or authorize a

private collector to provide the collection of domestic waste, this type of material may be burned; however, the burning must not create a nuisance, and you must comply with any applicable local rules or ordinances.

***I live in a small rural town where most people have their trash picked up by a commercial trash collection service. I can't afford to pay that money each month. May I burn my trash in a 55-gallon drum in my backyard?***

If the local city ordinance does not make it mandatory that trash be picked up, or there is no governmentally authorized or provided on-premises trash collection service, you may burn domestic waste on the property where it is produced, as long as it is not prohibited by local rule or ordinance and does not create a nuisance.

***What is considered to be “domestic waste”?***

Domestic waste is considered to be the garbage and rubbish normally resulting from the functions of life within a residence. It includes food waste, food packaging, residential yard, grass, leaves and branch trimmings, and clothing. It does not include tires, construction debris, furniture, carpet, appliances, and other items that residential households do not normally generate as waste.

***I want to burn boxes from my business. The TNRCC rules say that I may burn waste from my residence, but what about waste from my business?***

According to the Outdoor Burning Rule, you can't burn business waste. The exception that allows the burning of domestic waste applies only if the property is used exclusively as a private residence and the local governmental entity does not provide or authorize the collection of waste at the premises where the waste is generated. There is no such exception for businesses. You might want to look into the possibility of recycling your boxes or investigate ways that you or your neighbors could reuse the boxes.

***We have a real hard time disposing of scrap tires. Will the TNRCC let us burn them?***

No, and for at least two good reasons. First, the rule specifically prohibits the outdoor burning of tires—and any other items that contain natural or synthetic rubber—because of the air pollution that would result. Second, and of greater importance, Texas is at least as innovative as anywhere else in the world in finding good uses for waste tires.

***If my company has an oil spill, may we burn the oil to dispose of it?***

Perhaps. The burning of oil or other hydrocarbons spilled from pipeline breaks may be allowed, if the TNRCC determines that the burning is necessary to protect the public welfare. Ask for guidance from the appropriate TNRCC regional office.

***May I burn my old oil filters in a metal barrel on my property?***

No. Take oil filters to an authorized recycling site, along with your used oil. For information about recycling used oil and used oil filters, call toll-free 1-800-CLEAN-UP (1-800-253-2687) or 512/239-6695.

## **Agricultural Management**

***Why are the sugar growers allowed to burn the cane fields?***

There are no technically or economically feasible alternatives. Years ago, the Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers, Inc., requested the authorization to burn the cane

fields in association with each harvest. The TNRCC, after extended air monitoring studies, concluded that no practical alternative existed for this industry. The agency then adopted an agreed order that outlines conditions under which the sugarcane industry could conduct burning.

***The burning of corn stubble produces a great amount of smoke. Is this type of burning authorized?***

Burning for crop management is allowed if there is no practical alternative, if it is conducted under appropriate weather conditions and at appropriate times, and if it does not cause a nuisance or traffic hazard.

## **Recreational and Other Purposes**

***May I cook food on my charcoal grill in my backyard?***

Yes. Fires used in the noncommercial preparation of food are allowed.

***May I build a fire in my fireplace?***

Yes. Fires used exclusively for the purpose of supplying warmth during cold weather are allowed.

***Are campfires allowed inside the city limits?***

Fires used solely for recreational or ceremonial purposes are allowed by state law; however, local ordinance may prohibit this burning. Make sure no oils, asphalt, synthetic rubber, or other materials that produce heavy smoke are in the fire: they could cause a nuisance or traffic hazard.

