

## **OPEN BURNING**

Chapter 10, Section 2, Open burning restrictions addresses restrictions and requirements on specific burning practices such as unlawful open burning; emergency open burning; refuse burning; open burning of trade wastes, for salvage operations, for fire hazards, and for firefighter training; and vegetative material open burning. The regulatory requirements within Section 2 became effective on May 14, 2004. The WDEQ-AQD District Compliance staff will administer Section 2. Section 2 is not applicable to burns for recreational purposes, cooking of food, providing warmth for human beings, branding of animals, and handheld fire extinguisher training.

There are some extra things that may not be regulatory requirements that you can do to help your neighbors breathe more easily when conducting open burning.

- Contact neighboring residence(s), workplace(s), or other place(s) where people congregate prior to igniting the open burn.
- Do not burn closer than 500 feet on other property to a neighboring residence, workplace, or other place where people congregate to minimize the impacts from smoke.
- Conduct burning during the daytime hours between one hour after sunrise and two hours before sunset to minimize the impacts from smoke.
- Don't burn if the wind direction would cause smoke to blow toward a neighboring residence, workplace, or other place where people congregate.
- Don't burn on very calm or cold days, when there is likely to be an atmospheric inversion that will trap smoke near the ground.
- Burn in the morning when the winds are minimal, so smoke will blow away with higher afternoon winds.
- Attend and observe the open burn at all times and take corrective action (e.g., notify those nearby that will be impacted by the smoke and/or extinguish the burn) if the observed smoke dispersion and direction change causing the smoke to impact a neighboring residence, workplace, or other place where people congregate.

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

**Contact Information**

The WDEQ-AQD District Compliance staff will administer WAQSR Chapter 10, Section 2, Open burning restrictions. The Cheyenne WDEQ-AQD staff will administer WAQSR Chapter 10, Section 4, Smoke management requirements. The WDEQ-AQD staff work regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) unless otherwise noted and may be contacted by phone, fax or email.

Please check back periodically for updated Contact Information. Contact information, as of July 1, 2008, for the WDEQ-AQD staff is as follows:

<b>Staff</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Fax</b>	<b>E-Mail</b>
<b>District 1: Albany, Goshen, Laramie, Niobrara and Platte Counties</b>				
<u>Glenn Spangler</u> Carla Mlinar Thor Nordwick	WDEQ-AQD 122 West 25 <sup>th</sup> Street Herschler Building 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor East Cheyenne, WY 82002	Glenn (307) 777-3787 Carla (307) 777-3783 Thor (307) 777-6994 Main (307) 777-7391	(307) 777-5616	<a href="mailto:gspang@wyo.gov">gspang@wyo.gov</a> <a href="mailto:cmlina@wyo.gov">cmlina@wyo.gov</a> <a href="mailto:tnordw@wyo.gov">tnordw@wyo.gov</a>
<b>District 2: Carbon, Converse and Natrona Counties</b>				
<u>Chris Hanify</u> Jeff Hancock	WDEQ-AQD 152 N. Durbin St. Suite 100 Casper, WY 82601	Chris (307) 473-3470 Jeff (307) 473-3456 Main (307) 473-3455	(307) 473-3458	<a href="mailto:chanif@wyo.gov">chanif@wyo.gov</a> <a href="mailto:jhanco@wyo.gov">jhanco@wyo.gov</a>
<b>District 3: Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan and Weston Counties</b>				
<u>Tanner Shatto</u> Judy Shamley Brad Steidley Debbie White	WDEQ-AQD 1866 S. Sheridan Ave. Sheridan, WY 82801	Main (307) 673-9337 Tanner Ext. 256 Judy Ext. 238 Brad Ext. 241 Debbie Ext. 272	(307) 672-2213	<a href="mailto:tshatt@wyo.gov">tshatt@wyo.gov</a> <a href="mailto:jshaml@wyo.gov">jshaml@wyo.gov</a> <a href="mailto:bsteid@wyo.gov">bsteid@wyo.gov</a> <a href="mailto:dwhite@wyo.gov">dwhite@wyo.gov</a>
<b>District 4: Big Horn, Fremont, Hot Springs, Lincoln, Park and Washakie Counties</b>				
<u>Greg Meeker</u> Kirk Billings Jon Walker	WDEQ-AQD 510 Meadowview Dr. Lander, WY 82520	Greg (307) 335-6932 Kirk (307) 335-6963 Jon (307) 335-6960	(307) 332-7726	<a href="mailto:gmeeke@wyo.gov">gmeeke@wyo.gov</a> <a href="mailto:kbilli@wyo.gov">kbilli@wyo.gov</a> <a href="mailto:jwalke@wyo.gov">jwalke@wyo.gov</a>

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**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.