

How does it affect my health?

Toxic chemicals are released when trash is burned, including, (but not limited to,): nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) and polycyclic organic matter (POMs). Burning plastic and treated wood also releases heavy metals and toxic chemicals, such as dioxin, as well as carcinogens.

When plastic is burned, it releases dangerous chemicals, such as hydrochloric acid, sulfur dioxide, dioxins, furans and heavy metals, as well as particulates.

Burning trash can cause **long-term health problems** including (but not limited to): cancers, neurological damages, as well as damages to immune, reproductive, nervous, and endocrine systems.

Burning of plastic waste **increase the risk of heart disease, aggravates respiratory ailments such as asthma and emphysema and cause rashes, nausea or headaches, and damages the thyroid and nervous systems.**

Phthalates, the very chemicals that give plastic their desirable qualities—flexibility and softness—are **endocrine disruptors**, associated with a plethora of health problems, including **fertility issues and neonatal impacts on babies.**

No Open Burning!

It's not just about you—burning affects the environment around you!

Burning prohibited materials, such as garbage, plastic and painted or treated wood, is harmful to the environment because these materials **release toxic chemicals that pollute our air**. Polluted air can be inhaled by humans and animals, and deposited in the soil and surface water and on plants.

The burning of plastics **releases toxic gases like dioxins, furans, mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (better known as PCBs) into the atmosphere, and poses a threat to vegetation, and human and animal health.**

Dioxins settle on crops and in our waterways where they eventually enter our **food** and hence our bodies. These dioxins are potentially lethal persistent organic pollutants.

Burning plastic also releases black carbon (soot), which contributes to climate change and air pollution.

What can/cannot be burned?

Items allowed to be burned:

- o Untreated, natural wood (sticks and limbs that don't exceed 6" in diameter), leaves, grass, slash and weeds


Items NOT allowed to be burned:

- o Structures (unless they are being burned by the fire district for training purposes and have a demolition permit and state inspection prior to burning).
- o Food wastes, plastic, rubber, insulated wire, aerosol cans, tree stumps, tires, chemicals, cut lumber, construction debris, treated wood (anything that isn't paper or cardboard)
 - Burning can only occur in piles that do not exceed 8'x8'x8'
 - Agricultural burning is exempt from the open burning regulation

Burning without a permit or burning prohibited materials can lead to civil penalties of **up to \$1,500 per day** for residential violations, and up to \$10,000 a day for commercial violations.

Why?

It is against the law, and you do not have a right to pollute your neighbors' air, water, or land!



No Open Burning!

What other options do I have?

Open burning in Colorado is permissible with a state-issued open burning permit and with certain conditions:

- Burning should never occur during fire bans
 - An open burning permit should be obtained from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Air Pollution Control Division prior to any burning
- The permit is free !**
- Permit applications are available at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/openburn>
- Or contact cdphe.apopenburning@state.co.us or 303-692-3268 with questions
- Large burns (piles larger than 8'x8'x8' or more than 50 burns) require a smoke management permit. These are available at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/smoke-management-permits>
 - Granada Landfill, West Amache Rd., East of CR 23
 - Las Animas Recycling Center (servicing all of Southern Colorado).
 - o Bins for recycling located in Holly, Granada and in Lamar.