

Richland County Fire Marshal's

The Richland County Fire Marshal's Office, a division of the Richland County Emergency Services Department, is charged with enforcing the provisions of governing fire codes, as promulgated in Sec. § 23-9-30 of South Carolina State Law and § 1-12 of the Richland County Code of Ordinances in the unincorporated areas of Richland County and ensuring compliance with governing building and fire codes through education, inspection, and enforcement.

Purpose

Each year illegal or unprescribed burns contribute to increase fire calls and can often result in loss of life and property damage. This brochure is designed to inform contractors and residents of the rules and safety regulations concerning open burning in Richland County.

What is an Open Burn?

"The burning of materials where in products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber. Open burning does not include road flares, smudgepots and similar devices associated with safety or occupational uses typically considered open flames or recreational fires." (International Fire Code)

(Salamanders, outdoor fireplaces, or other similar devices may be used for heating by construction workers, provided no nuisance is created.)

The Burn Ordinance

Sec. 10-1. **Compliance**

No person shall kindle or maintain an open burning or authorize any such fire to be kindled or maintained within the unincorporated areas of the county, except as stated in this article.

Sec. 10-2. **Location of residential yard debris burning.**

Open burning of leaves, tree branches and yard trimmings originating on the premises of private residences and burned on those premises shall be permitted within "rural" zoning districts, as defined under the Richland County Land Development Code, provided that any fire must be located not less than 75 feet from any structure, road, or property line and adequate provision has been made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 75 feet of any such structure, road or property line. Open burning of leaves, tree branches, and yard trimmings shall be prohibited on the premises of private residences within any "residential" zoning district, as defined under the Richland County Land Development Code.

Sec. 10-3. **Open burning in undeveloped areas for the purpose of land clearing or right-of-way maintenance.**

Open burning in undeveloped areas, including undeveloped areas within "residential" zoning districts, as defined under the Richland County Land Development Code, for the purpose of land-clearing or right-of-way maintenance shall be permitted, provided that such burning is conducted in accordance with the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) Air Quality Regulations 61-62.2 and 61-62.4 and S.C. Code 1976, § 48-35-10 et seq. Open burning for the purpose of land clearing and right-of-way maintenance shall be prohibited during the ozone season (April 1 through October 30).

Sec. 10-4 **Attendant and fire extinguishing equipment required; notice to state forester; adherence to state law.**

The burning must be constantly attended by a competent person until such fire is extinguished. Such person shall have a garden hose connected to a water supply, or other fire extinguishing equipment readily available for use. Proper notification shall be given to the state forester or his duly authorized representative or other persons designated by the state forester. The notice shall contain all information required by the state forester or his representative. The burning must be conducted in accordance with related state laws and regulations including, but not limited to, DHEC Air Quality Regulations 61-62.2 and 61-62.4 and S.C. Code 1976, § 48-35-10 et seq.

Sec. 10-5. **Fires shall be prohibited as follows.**

- a. The county Fire Marshal may prohibit open burning when atmospheric conditions, local circumstances or other conditions exist that would make such fires hazardous.
- b. The following materials shall not be burned in an open fire: Asphalt and asphalt materials, paint, plastics, metals, treated wood, paper, petroleum products, demolition debris, dead animals, construction debris, household chemicals, household garbage, tires, trade waste and cardboard.

Sec. 10-6. **Criteria for determining hazards.**

Reasonable criteria shall be established by the county council to assist in determining when outdoor fires may be hazardous. These criteria may include air quality standards as well as various fire danger indexes.

Sec. 10-7. **Prohibited on county roads, drainage rights-of-way and adjacent areas.**

Open burning shall be prohibited on all county roads and drainage rights-of-way, or within an area that may cause damage to such areas.

Sec. 10-8. **Exemptions.**

- a. This article does not apply to vegetative debris burning related to forestry, wildlife and agricultural burns, as authorized by the state forestry commission.
- b. This article is not meant to restrict open burning in the connection with the preparation of food for immediate consumption, or campfires and fires used solely for recreational purposes, ceremonial occasions or human warmth that are done in a safe manner.

Sec. 10-9. **Restrictions; exceptions.***

Smoke production must be ended and no combustible material may be added to the fire between official sunset of one day and official sunrise of the following day with the exception of fires in the connection with the preparation of food for immediate consumption, or campfires and fires used solely for recreational purposes, ceremonial occasions, or human warmth and fires where time parameters are already regulated by the Department of Environmental Control Regulation 61-62.2.

http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/baq/docs/regs/pdf/R61-62_2.pdf

Sec. 10-10. **Hazardous or toxic materials**

Hazardous or toxic materials shall not be burned.

** Items not addressed within this ordinance shall be enforced by governing fire codes, where applicable. The Fire Marshal is authorized to order the extinguishment of open burning that creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation.*



Contacts

Richland County

Burn Notification (803) 576-3404

Burn Complaints (803) 252-2911

DHEC

Air Quality (803) 896-0620

SC Forestry Commission

-General Debris 1-800-517-9638

-Forestry, Wildlife,

Agriculture 1-800-777-FIRE

Emergency 911



RICHLAND COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

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<http://www.rcgov.us/departments/EmergencyServices/FireandEnforcement.asp>