

North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality Reminds Residents of the State's Open Burning Regulations

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) is reminding residents to follow state regulations surrounding open burning, especially as drought conditions persist throughout much of the state. These rules are in place to protect public safety, reduce environmental risks, and minimize wildfire hazards.

Prescribed Burns Require Prior Approval

Land management agencies planning to conduct prescribed burns, such as those for wildlife habitat improvement or other land optimization, must obtain written approval from NDDEQ.

Open Burning and the Law

Residents are encouraged to **follow all burning restrictions to ensure proper burning and safety procedures are achieved**. Details about those rules, and also information on more specific burning activities such as burning buildings, burning at landfills, and burning oil, are available at the [NDDEQ Open Burning Webpage](#). Certain activities, such as campfires, outdoor cooking fires, and agricultural crop burning, do not require a burn variance. However, local burn restrictions/bans must still be followed.

Additional Burn Requirements

Even with a burn variance, individuals must:

- **Check for local burn restrictions/bans** [here](#).
- Monitor fire danger ratings [Fire Danger Ratings](#) and red flag warnings [Reg Flag Warning](#).
- Follow emergency declarations. Up-to-date conditions can be found at [ndresponse.gov](#). Residents must also notify local fire departments and emergency management offices before burning.

Community Awareness and Safety

Although not required, NDDEQ encourages residents to notify their neighbors before conducting an open burn. This helps ensure safety and community awareness. For more information, visit NDDEQ's open burning webpage at [NDDEQ Open Burning Webpage](#) or contact your local fire department or emergency management office.

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