

Types of Outdoor Burning Missoula County

Permit Type	Definition	Season
General	Natural vegetation (brush, branches, limbs, etc.) and/or untreated lumber—from cleaning up yards, gardens, etc. No piles of leaves or grass clippings in Air Stagnation Zone	March 1-August 31 as hotline allows with permit
Essential Agricultural	Natural vegetation Must be conducted on a farm or ranch to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clear an irrigation ditch, or ▪ Clear excess vegetation from cultivated fields, or ▪ Improve range conditions, or ▪ Improve wildlife habitat where no reasonable alternative is available 	March 1-October 31 as hotline allows with permit
Prescribed Wildland	Natural vegetation Must be planned burning on forest land or relatively undeveloped rangeland to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ improve wildlife habitat, or ▪ improve range conditions, or ▪ promote forest regeneration, or ▪ reduce fire hazards from forestry practices, or ▪ control forest pests or diseases 	March 1-November 30 as hotline allows with permit
Ceremonial Bonfire	Cordwood or untreated lumber, and woody vegetation can be burned Must be ceremonial fire during an organization-related event <i>Permit must be signed by Health, Fire, and Police</i>	All year with permit

Outdoor burning which does not fall into one of the categories above requires a special permit issued by the Health Department

<p>Missoula City-County Environmental Health Air Quality Division 301 W Alder Missoula, MT 59802 406-258-4755</p>	<p>Hotlines North of Clearwater Junction: 677-2899 Everywhere else: 258-4900</p>
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Outdoor Burn Permitting Checklist For Missoula County Citizens Outside Missoula City Limits

Outdoor Burning in Missoula County must be in accordance with Missoula City-County Air Pollution Control Program Regulations, Chapter 7; Montana Code Annotated; city ordinances; and fire codes. The most stringent regulation applies.

Outdoor Burning Permits can be issued by Fire Departments if...

Part 1: Proposed burn meets fire safety criteria

Part 2: Only natural vegetation and untreated lumber will be burned. ALL of the following must be true about the material to be burned:

- No garbage, metals, plastics, paper, etc.
- No painted or treated wood
- No plywood, fiberboard, particleboard, or other manufactured wood products
- No waste generated from a business (except vegetation that grew on the property where the burn will take place)
- No waste from other properties
- No standing or demolished buildings
- No piles of leaves or grass inside the Air Stagnation Zone

Part 3: Type of burn must be "in-season" (see definitions on other side)

- General Outdoor Burning ("Open Burning"): March 1-August 31
- Essential Agricultural Outdoor Burning: March 1-October 31
- Prescribed Wildland Outdoor Burning: March 1-November 30
- Ceremonial Bonfires: All year (permitting usually starts with Health Department)

Recreational fires are not considered outdoor burning and do not require permits in Missoula County. A recreational fire must meet ALL of the following criteria...

- Only natural vegetation and/or untreated lumber can be burned, AND
- The fire must be less than 2 feet in diameter, AND
- Disposal of material may not be main purpose of the fire, AND
- The fire must not cause a public nuisance