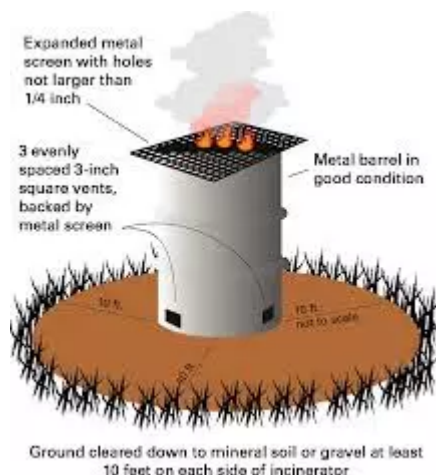


## COLUMBUS, Ohio—With the beginning of October, marks the start of the outdoor open burning ban in Ohio

The Ohio DNR and Ohio EPA prohibits outdoor open burning and prescribed fires in the months of October, and November between 6am and 6pm. The ban is also in effect in the spring during the months of March, April and May. This ban includes the burning of yard waste, trash, and debris, even in a proper burn barrel.

Open burning is particularly dangerous in the spring and fall, when the leaves are on the ground, the grass is not green, and the weather is warm, dry and windy. Consider too, that much of the Buckeye State is experiencing serious drought condition, which only increases the dangers of outdoor burning.

Even outside of the time and date restrictions, any person conducting an outdoor burn must obtain landowner permission, remain with the fire while it is burning, and take all reasonable precautions to prevent the fire from escaping.



Proper burn barrel design: courtesy of Ohio Dept. of Commerce

Items never to be burned at any time or any place in Ohio:

-Food waste

-Dead animals

-Materials containing rubber, grease, asphalt, or made from petroleum

### Other Restrictions:

- Fires must be more than 1000 feet from neighbor's inhabited building
- No burning when air pollution alert, warning, or emergency is in effect
- Fire/smoke cannot obscure visibility on roadway, railways, or airfields
- No waste generated off the premises may be burned
- No burning within village or city limits or restricted areas

### *What is considered an "open burn" ?*

The term "open burn" refers to debris, brush and trash fires. Ohio EPA defines an open burn as any outdoor fire without a chimney or stack.

### *So, what then is a "prescribed fire"*

"Prescribed fire" refers to fires that are intentionally lit, under predetermined conditions, to meet various resource management objectives. When managed carefully, prescribed fire can stimulate the growth of native vegetation and reduce fire hazards brought on by the accumulation of dead vegetation.

Prescribed fires may be conducted during the burn ban, but only with the permission of the Chief of the Division of Forestry., and an Ohio Certified Prescribed Fire Manager must request a waiver from Ohio DNR Division of Forestry.

Before you conduct an outdoor burn, contact your local fire department, the Ohio EPA: 614-644-2270 or Ohio Division of Forestry 1-877-247-873