



Revised – 3/15/2023

**County of Goochland**  
**Department of Fire-Rescue - Office of the Fire Marshal**  
**Open Burning Regulations Summary**

*This document summarizes Goochland's Open Burning Regulations.  
Refer to Goochland County Code, Chapter 6, Sections 6-50 through 6-57 for the full text of the Regulations.  
Contact the **Fire Marshal** at (804) 556-5365 with any questions.*

**I. Open Burning** occurs when combustion byproduct is emitted directly into the atmosphere without passing through a stack, duct, or chimney.

**II. 4PM Law.** From Feb. 15 – April 30, burning is restricted to the hours of 4 p.m.- Midnight.

4PM BURNING LAW IN EFFECT  
FEBRUARY 15 – APRIL 30



**III. When, Where, and How to Get a Permit.**

- A. Permits are required for residential bonfires (pile size larger than 8'x8'x8') and for all land clearing and maintenance operations regardless of pile size. See the "Permit Exceptions" section below for more information on burning without a permit.
- B. Permits are available at the **Goochland Fire-Rescue Administration Office** during normal business hours (8:30am-5pm).
- C. Provide **\$75 permit fee**. Checks, money orders, or the exact cash amount are accepted.
- D. Provide **site diagram** clearly showing the location of the burn pile(s) and distances to roadways and the nearest buildings on another person's property. The Fire Marshal must approve all site plans and may require a site visit prior to issuing a permit.
- E. Provide **permission letters** from neighboring property owners in order to burn closer to their home and other buildings than 300' (for residential fires) and 750' (for land clearing fires), but in no event less than 50' away from any home or building. Keep a copy of the signed and dated permission letters on-site for the duration of the permit.
- F. For new construction land clearing, provide the **zoning permit** and/or approved POD number. In RPUD and MPUD zoning districts, burning must be conducted at least 1,000' from the nearest structure and 100' from any woodline, no exceptions.
- H. Permit applications will be processed within 10 days of receipt of all applicable fees, plans, and permissions.
- I. Permits can be issued for up to 1-year. Permits for less than 1-year may be extended once by the Fire Marshal at no additional charge if requested prior to permit expiration and within the initial 1-year period.

**IV. Open Burning Rules.**

- A. **Do** get a permit. Call the **Fire Marshall (804) 556-5365**. See **Permit Exceptions** below for situations that do not require a permit.
- B. **Do** notify the Sheriff's Office. Call the **Sheriff non-emergency line (804) 556-5348** prior to burning with the location and time of the planned burning.
- C. **Do not** burn **Prohibited Materials** or in **Prohibited Locations** (see below).
- D. **Do not** use accelerants to ignite any fire.
- E. **Do not** burn items transported to your property from another property.
- F. **Do not** burn when winds will carry smoke and ash to another person's dwelling, building, or roadways.
- G. **Do not** leave unattended; attend burning at all times until the fire is completely extinguished.
- H. Burning that causes objectionable smoke or odor will require extinguishment until more favorable winds are present. Multiple complaints for the same location may result in permit revocation.
- I. Open burning conducted with a permit or in accordance with regulations does not exempt any person from being **held accountable** for damages or injuries as a result of the burning. Cost for any emergency response required due to a failure to maintain control of the open burning may be charged to the responsible party.



