



Burning Waste

August 2004

FACTS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

While burning may be the simplest way to clean up a site, open burning can release pollutants, reduce visibility, create unpleasant odours and cause contamination.

To ensure the environment is protected, the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* (EPEA) classifies debris as either burnable or prohibited.

WHAT YOU CAN BURN

Burnable debris includes:

- Brush and fallen trees
- Used power and telephone poles that do not contain preservatives
- Wood or wood products not containing preservatives such as creosote, pentachlorophenol, CCA etc.
- Solid waste from tree harvesting
- Straw, stubble, grass, weeds, leaves and tree prunings
- Solid waste from post and pole operations that does not contain wood preservatives

WHAT YOU CAN'T BURN

A permit from Alberta Environment is required to burn prohibited debris anywhere in Alberta. Prohibited debris includes:

- Animal manure
- Pathological waste (waste from human health centres)
- Wood or wood products containing wood preservatives
- Waste materials from construction sites
- Rubber, including tires
- Plastic, including baler twine
- Oil
- Containers that held pesticides or other chemicals
- Plastic or rubber-coated materials, including copper wire
- Any waste that causes dense smoke, offensive odours or releases toxic substances

WHERE YOU CAN'T BURN

Different laws regulate where you can burn, and some require you have a permit, even for burnable debris.

Unauthorized burning of any kind is restricted in Calgary, Edmonton and many other municipalities.

Contact your local fire department to learn more about restrictions and requirements.

REMEMBER TO RECYCLE

Many items that you may consider burning can be recycled. These items include:

- Plastic
- Paper and cardboard
- Metal materials
- Used oil
- Tires
- Beverage containers

Call the Alberta Recycle Information Line at 1-800-463-6326 for local information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on backyard burning, contact the Alberta Environment regional office nearest you.

NORTHERN REGION

Edmonton

#111, Twin Atria Building
4999-98 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T6B 2X3
Tel: 780.427.7617
Fax: 780.427.7824

CENTRAL REGION

Red Deer

#304, Provincial Building
4920-51 Street
Red Deer, Alberta, T4N 6K8
Tel: 403.340.7052
Fax: 403.340.5022

SOUTHERN REGION

Calgary

#303, Deerfoot Square Building
2938-11 Street NE
Calgary, Alberta, T2E 7L7
Tel: 403.297.7880
Fax: 403.297.6069