



MESA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Working Together for a Healthy Community

NEWS RELEASE

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Open Burn Permits available online for Spring Open Burn Season

Mesa County Health Department (MCHD) has made Open Burn Permits available online beginning this Spring Open Burn Season, which runs from March 1 through May 31. **All open burns, including agricultural burns, require an Open Burn Permit.**

The new permitting system standardizes the price and length of the permit for residents living outside of Grand Junction city limits.

Two types of permits will be available:

- General Burn Permits cost \$10 per permit and are valid for 14 days after purchase.
- Agricultural Burn Permits won't require a fee and are valid until Dec. 31, 2017.
 - It's important to get your Agricultural Burn Permit, because air quality regulations and fire safety regulations have been combined.
 - Registering for this permit gives your local fire department a heads up that you'll be burning.
- The new system will use your information to determine which type of burn permit you need, according to zoning of your property.

"We worked closely with our local fire districts to standardize the permitting process," MCHD Air Quality Specialist Melissa Salter said. "The new system is modernized and offers more accurate data, which allows us to be more responsive.

Residents who need assistance using the online system or don't have access to a computer or an internet connection, can still apply for an Open Burn Permit in person at Mesa County Health Department, 510 29 ½ Road in Grand Junction, or at Lower Valley Fire District, 166 N Mesa St. in Fruita.

Public computers are also available at [Mesa County Libraries locations](#) for individuals who need computer access to apply for a burn permit. Printouts from library computers cost 15 cents per page.

Consider composting. Instead of burning, yard waste (including leaves and grass clippings, which cannot be burned) can be taken to the Mesa County Organic Materials composting facility at Mesa County Solid Waste, 3071 U.S. Hwy. 50. The facility accepts organic materials such as leaves, grass clippings, tree limbs, unpainted lumber, hay and straw free of charge from Mesa County residents. The composting facility is open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Composting is an excellent alternative, as burning can affect air quality.

Click [here](#) to access the Guide to Burning in Mesa County and to purchase your Open Burn Permit. Questions and concerns regarding permitting for those residents should be directed to the Grand Junction Fire Department at (970) 549-5800 or [online](#).

Members of the media who need more information can call Diana Williams at (970) 248-6916 or visit health.mesacounty.us.



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