



## Open Burning Rule – Fire Training

Office of Air Quality

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[www.idem.IN.gov](http://www.idem.IN.gov)

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### Overview:

- All live fire training that involves open burning activities, burning of structures including barrel and compartment burns, must comply with Indiana's open burning rule found at 326 IAC 4-1 ("the rule").
- A change in Indiana's open burning rule effective October 28, 2011, allows municipal fire departments to burn up to two single-family housing structures per year for the purpose of live fire training as long as the exemption requirements listed in 326 IAC 4-1-3(c)(9) are met. Prior IDEM approval is required for each additional fire training.
- The exemption does not apply to volunteer fire departments, which are required to submit an application and receive IDEM approval prior to any live fire training.
- The rule applies to single family dwellings only and does not include duplexes, apartment complexes, commercial buildings, or other multi-family structures.
- The rule does not restrict a municipal fire department from applying for additional fire training approvals beyond the two houses as long as sufficient justification for the additional training is provided and the department determines that the additional fire training will not have a significant environmental impact.

### Requirements:

Municipal fire departments may burn two single family structures per year for the purpose of live fire training provided they meet the following exemption requirements listed in 326 IAC 4-1-3(c)(9):

- All asbestos-containing materials, asphalt roofing including backer paper, and vinyl siding including Styrofoam backer insulation must be removed from the structure to be burned. These materials must not be burned and must be handled or disposed of in accordance with the applicable rules of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Solid Waste Management Board (SWMB).
- Mercury containing equipment, including fluorescent bulbs, must be removed from the house and properly recycled or disposed of in accordance with the applicable rules of the SWMB.
- All furniture, trash, floor coverings and appliances should be removed prior to training.
- No burning shall take place within 100 feet of a structure or power line; or 300 feet of a frequently traveled road, fuel storage area, or pipeline.
- All burning must comply with federal, state, or local laws, regulations, or ordinances including 40 CFR 61, Subpart M\* (National Emissions Standards for Asbestos).
- The fire department must submit written notification to the Office of Air Quality, Compliance and Enforcement Branch at least 30 days prior to the burning with the date, time, and location of the burning included. A copy of the notification shall also be made available to state and local officials upon request.
- The fire department must provide written notification at least 15 days prior to the training to each party or person owning or renting property located within 500 feet of the structure to be burned or publish a notice of intent to burn in the local newspaper.
- The fire department must notify the county health department and county sheriff's department at least 24 hours prior to the burning and include the date, time, and location of the burning.

Municipal fire department that cannot meet these requirements or want to conduct more than two exempt live fire trainings on a single-family housing structures per year are required to submit an application, provide sufficient justification for the additional training, and receive IDEM approval prior to any live fire training.

Volunteer fire departments are required to submit an application and receive IDEM approval prior to any live fire training.

**More Information:**

- For more information on open burning and fire training, please contact the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Office of Air Quality, at (800) 451-6027 ext. 3-0178. Open burning approvals and notifications should be emailed to [burnapprovals@idem.IN.gov](mailto:burnapprovals@idem.IN.gov).
- Fire Training Application forms for fire departments may be obtained online at:
  - [www.idem.IN.gov/openburning/2394.htm](http://www.idem.IN.gov/openburning/2394.htm) (*IDEM Fire Training Information and Forms Web page*)
  - or
  - <https://www.in.gov/idem/5157.htm> (*IDEM Forms Web page*).
- Fire Training Notification forms for municipal fire departments may be obtained on IDEM's website at:
  - <https://forms.in.gov/Download.aspx?id=9978> (*Word version*)
  - <https://forms.in.gov/Download.aspx?id=9977> (*PDF version*)