

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
DIVISION OF AIR QUALITY, AIR PERMITS PROGRAM** Anchorage  
Anchorage Compliance Supervisor  
555 Cordova Street  
Anchorage, AK 99501

**OPEN-BURNING APPROVAL APPLICATION**

Controlled Burning for Land Clearing

*Open burning of woody debris material by farmers and developers requires written DEC approval before lighting if the intent is to burn, or clear and burn, 40 acres or more during a year.*

*When conducting land clearing or agricultural burning, landowners and/or developers are encouraged to follow the Enhanced Smoke Management Plan (ESMP). The ESMP is an agreement and program plan developed and agreed upon by the Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group. The purposes of the ESMP are to mitigate the nuisance, health and safety hazards to transportation and smoke sensitive features posed by smoke intrusions into populated areas; to prevent deterioration of air quality and Alaskan Ambient Air Quality Standard violations; and to reduce visibility impacts in mandatory Class I Federal Areas in accordance with Regional Haze Rules. Transportation concerns include roadway and airport visibility impairment; smoke sensitive features include hospitals, schools, clinics and etc.*

Note: Please type or cut/paste your responses into the appropriate cells; the cells will expand as required.

**Person(s) Responsible:**

Project Contact:		Phone Number:	
Land Owner:			
Mailing Address:			
Physical Address:			
Phone Number:			

**If the fire is being actively managed by someone other than the land owner, please provide their name and phone numbers:**

Name:			
Phone Number:		Cell phone number:	

**Emergency contact number(s) in case of smoke intrusion:**

Name:			
Title / Agency			
Primary contact Phone #:			
Cell or other contact #:			

<b>1. LOCATION AND DATES OF PROPOSED BURN</b>	
<b>Indicate the location, duration, and inclusive dates considered for the burn:</b>	
Legal Description of Burn Site(s):	
Physical Location of Burn Site(s):	
Anticipated Burn Date(s):	Anticipated Duration of Each Event:

<b>2. BURN SUMMARY</b>	
<b>Location of Burn (please check below). Please include a general map of the area showing where the burn is in relation to the nearest community or communities.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> KP = Kenai Peninsula	<input type="checkbox"/> DJ = Delta Junction
<input type="checkbox"/> SE = Southeast	<input type="checkbox"/> AL = Aleutian (inc. Kodiak, Iliamna)
<input type="checkbox"/> MS = Mat-Su Borough	<input type="checkbox"/> FBX = areas north of Talkeetna
<input type="checkbox"/> OL = Other Location, please specify:	

<input type="checkbox"/> One time event? (yes or no)	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Events? (yes or no)
Total acreage to be burned and/or cleared and burned:	
Acreage to be burned per event (if applicable):	
Estimated number of piles/berms:	
Estimated composition of piles/berms:	
Estimated pile/berm size:	
Do piles/berms contain less than 5% non-combustibles (such as soil, snow, or ice)?	
Are piles/berms longer than 1000 feet without a fire break?	
Are piles/berms loosely stacked to allow for natural draft?	
Have the piles/berms been cured for one year prior to ignition?	
How do you propose to extinguish the piles/berms if necessary? (ie, excessive smoke)	
Can this be accomplished within two hours?	

Permit Approval Requested Length:	<input type="checkbox"/> One Event	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Events
<p>If a multi-year permit approval is requested, indicate which portions of the projects will be burned during each of the following years. Multi-Year permits will require a renewal application each year and are subject to the same fee. Attach a map as necessary to further indicate where/when burning will occur.</p>		

<b>Indicate the type of vegetation to be burned (please check):</b>			
	1 = Broadcast, forested, not piled, black spruce, shrub		5 = Hand piled slash
	2 = Broadcast, forested, not piled, white spruce		6 = Grassland / crop field
	3 = Range/tundra		7 = Other (explain below)
	4 = Machine piled slash		
<b>Describe ignition techniques to be used:</b>			
<b>Note: DEC will calculate the emissions from this burn from the information included in the application.</b>			

<b>3. OTHER DISPOSAL OPTIONS</b>
<b>Identify alternative disposal options for material burned (such as marketing timber) and explain why they were not used. An evaluation of alternatives to open burning must demonstrate that open burning is technologically, economically, and environmentally the best alternative.</b>
<b>List any alternatives to burning that have been done to the burn units prior to ignition.</b>

<b>4. SENSITIVE FEATURES</b>
<i>Sensitive Features include population centers such as communities, cities, towns, hospitals, health clinics, nursing homes, schools (in session), camp grounds, numbered Alaska highways and roads, airports, and Class I Areas, where smoke and air pollutants can adversely affect public health, safety, and welfare.</i>
<b>Include a map of the proposed burn area showing all sensitive features within a five mile radius. Additional maps are encouraged.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Indicate multiple burn sites (if any) within the proposed burn area;</li> <li>b. List sensitive features as described above that may be adversely affected by low level smoke and distance of those areas from proposed burn area(s);</li> <li>c. List sensitive features that may be adversely affected by long range transport of smoke and distance of those areas from proposed burn area(s).</li> </ul>
<b>How many maps are attached?</b>

## 5. SMOKE MANAGEMENT

DEC's primary goal is to manage smoke to mitigate impacts on public health and visibility. Depending upon the potential for smoke incursions, special mitigation procedures may be required. The State of Alaska uses the following chart from Montana to relate visibility, as impacted by smoke, with air quality concentrations: <http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/VisibilityRanges.asp>. **If you have questions while completing the Smoke Management portion of the application, please contact DEC for assistance.**

**Out of each group of 3 or 4 statements relating to smoke management issues, please check the one that most accurately describes your land clearing open burn:**

- The project will only produce smoke for less than 1 day. No smoke related impacts to remote residences, roads, or other facilities.
  - The project will produce smoke for 1 - 3 days or the smoke will be barely visible to the public. Minor or no smoke related impacts to isolated residences, remote roads or other facilities.
  - The project will produce smoke visible to the public over 4 - 7 days. Vistas, roads, and some residences may experience short-term decreases in visibility.
  - The smoke will be readily visible to the public and last more than 7 days. Vistas, roads, and some residences may experience longer-term decreases in visibility or significant decreases in visibility over the short-term. Smoke may affect smoke sensitive areas.
- 
- Smoke will not extend into local communities or travel aloft to distant communities. Little impact expected on public health from smoke.
  - Smoke will be around the public with potential impact to sensitive individuals who may need to take action to protect themselves.
  - Smoke will impact communities in the vicinity of the fire or in the distance - the public will be impacted by smoke from this fire. Sensitive people and some healthy individuals may be required to take precautionary actions or need medical attention.
- 
- No special operational precautions required to protect public health.
  - Consideration of operational actions will need to be undertaken to ensure protection of potentially impacted public.
  - Action will be required to protect public health; air quality monitoring will be necessary.
- 
- No operational difficulties (wind direction, weather) are expected.
  - Burn window(s) may be reduced by weather / dispersion conditions.
  - Burn window opportunities are limited by weather / dispersion conditions. Accelerated mop up may be planned to reduce smoke impacts.

- I do not know what smoke impacts my fire will cause, please provide assistance.

**Note: All land clearing / agricultural burns will be considered "anthropogenic" (human caused ignition).**

**6. MITIGATION:**

*If any safety hazard is present, or if requested by the authority of a Sensitive Feature, you must mitigate impacts through steps that are technologically feasible and economically and environmentally reasonable. Failure to have an effective mitigation measure may, in some cases, result in the application not being approved.*

**Indicate how authorities in control of Sensitive Features will be contacted if air quality degrades (visibility may be used as an indicator of air quality).** Provide a contingency plan for smoke intrusion into Sensitive Feature areas. Indicate how you will notify Authorities having control over Sensitive Features identified above if visibility is expected to be decreased to less than three miles for an hour.

What mitigation practices / contingency plans are proposed to help keep the smoke from affecting Sensitive Features near to the burn site?

Is the burn expected to be large enough (>1000 acres) or hot enough to create a smoke plume that is transported to upper level air currents?		Yes		No
--	--	-----	--	----

If yes, what mitigation practices / contingency plans are proposed to help keep the smoke from affecting Sensitive Features far from the burn site?

**7. PUBLIC NOTICE**

*The Responsible Individual's local contact phone number should be publicized. The public must be notified at least three days prior to the anticipated open burn through the local news media, the local Post Office, or by individual communication (written documentation is best).*

**Indicate how the public will be informed prior to, during, and after the burning.** How will you notify persons in control of the sensitive features identified on your map of your anticipated burn?

If burning is to occur within a non-urban area, list neighbors within a one-mile radius of the burn area. Use additional sheets if necessary.

Name:		Name:	
Address:		Address:	
Telephone:		Telephone:	

Name:		Name:	
Address:		Address:	
Telephone:		Telephone:	

**Indicate how you will coordinate with other concerned agencies, including the Responsible Authorities of sensitive features identified above** (such as the FAA, State Troopers, military, fire department, adjacent land managers, etc.) Include a list of telephone numbers or email addresses of agencies you will contact prior to ignition.

**Indicate how you will coordinate with DEC Air Quality.** *At a minimum, the DEC Meteorologist must be notified one week prior to anticipated project ignition (907-269-7676). If your application is approved, a weather conference call should be scheduled for 24 - 96 hours prior to the actual burn.*

**Attach a copy of your approval for the DNR - Forestry Division Open Burn Permit for your planned activity, or explain below why a DNR Burn Permit is not required.**

### **8. METEOROLOGICAL / WEATHER FORECASTING**

*The Division's meteorologist is responsible for ensuring, from the Department's standpoint, that smoke from a land clearing / agricultural burn does not adversely impact the public. To allow their participation in the burn decision making process, please ensure that this application is completed and submitted at least 3 weeks prior to a scheduled burn so they can participate in pre-burn planning events several days prior to ignition.*

**Indicate how weather forecasts will be obtained and used to prevent smoke impacts.** Identify how the local and spot weather forecast will be obtained prior to ignition of the open burn (for example, contacting the National Weather Service). *Parameters that should be obtained are the predicted visibility, dispersion conditions, transport and local area wind direction, and wind speed.*

**Indicate how weather changes will be monitored.**

**Explain what you will do if a wind shift or other weather change begins to create an adverse smoke impact on Sensitive Features previously identified.**

**Indicate what will be done to ensure smoke disperses as forecast.** Note: If a test fire fails to indicate that acceptable smoke dispersion will occur, no more fires are to be ignited.

**Indicate proposed techniques to be used to enhance the active fire phase and reduce the smoldering phase.** Consider employing emission reduction techniques before, during and after the fire. Indicate what techniques are feasible for you to accomplish.

DEC may require monitoring for certain burns. Such burns are typically large-scale or very close to sensitive features. The monitoring requirements, if any, will be addressed within the approval process. If monitoring is required, DEC may supply monitoring equipment and personnel. The applicant acknowledges that time and materials will be charged for DEC services. \_\_\_\_\_ Yes

If applicable, identify how the effect of the fire on air quality at Sensitive Features will be monitored.

*If any safety hazard is present, or if requested by the persons in control of a sensitive area, you must mitigate the smoke impact of the fire as quickly as possible. You will be held legally responsible for any accidents or adverse health effects that occur because of your open burn.*

**Certification:** (If signing as an Authorized Agent, please submit a copy of your authority to do so.)

*Based on information and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, I certify that the statements and information in and attached to this document are true, accurate, and complete.*

_____ Landowner Signature	_____ Date	_____ Fire Manager Signature (if applicable)	_____ Date
_____ Printed Name of Landowner		_____ Printed Name of Fire Manager (if applicable)	

As of September 26, 2015, the fee for review of and routine compliance services for a request for Open Burning Approval is \$230. With each burn application please submit a \$230 administrative fee payable to the State of Alaska, DEC. If the department determines that a smoke incursion is likely as per 18 AAC 50.400(g), any additional costs will be billed on an hourly basis in accordance with 18 AAC 50.400(h). The applicant will be notified that DEC will charge an hourly administrative fee and direct costs for approval processing and administration. DEC will prepare and send a monthly invoice itemizing fees and direct costs to the applicant.

Send each open burn application and check to:

ADEC Air Permits Program  
Anchorage Compliance Supervisor  
Open Burn Request  
555 Cordova Street  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Your approval may be issued within 30 days. If approved, notification and burn summary requirements will be outlined in your letter of approval.

*A copy of the open burning guidelines may be obtained through our website:  
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/ap/docs/obrguide.pdf>*