



The mission of the Richland County Fire Marshal's Office is to prevent or reduce incidences of fire by increasing the fire safety awareness and knowledge of residents, contractors, businesses and construction industry professionals.

This mission is accomplished through an array of fire prevention initiatives, compliance inspections and fire plan review, in compliance with Fire Safety Codes and applicable regulations adopted by Richland County and the State of South Carolina.

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Richland County Government
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S.C. Forestry Commission
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Every year, illegal or unprescribed burns contribute to an increase in fire calls and can result in loss of life and property damage.

What is an open burn?

According to the International Fire Code, an open burn is "the burning of materials wherein products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber. Open burning does not include road flares, smudgepots and similar devices associated with safety or occupational uses typically considered open flames or recreational fires."

Richland County **OPEN BURN REQUIREMENTS**



**Richland County
Fire Marshal's Office**

It is the responsibility of residents, visitors and anyone doing business in Richland County to be knowledgeable of open burn requirements that help reduce fire risks.

A *summary of Richland County's Burn Ordinance

Sec. 10-1, Compliance. No one may kindle, maintain or authorize open burning within unincorporated areas of the County, except as stated.

Sec. 10-2, Location of residential yard debris burning. Open burning of leaves, tree branches and yard trimmings is permitted within *rural zoning districts if the fire is at least 75 feet from any structure, road or property line. Open burning of leaves, tree branches and yard trimmings is prohibited in *residential districts.

Sec. 10-3, Open burning in undeveloped areas for the purpose of land clearing or right-of-way maintenance. Open burning in undeveloped areas, including undeveloped areas in *residential zoning districts for the purpose of land-clearing or right-of-way maintenance, is permitted if the burning is conducted within SCDHEC regulations.

Open burning for the purpose of land clearing and right-of-way maintenance is prohibited during ozone season (April 1-Oct. 30).

Sec. 10-4, Attendant and fire extinguishing equipment required; notice to state forester; adherence to state law. Burning must be constantly attended by a competent person until the fire is extinguished, with a water supply or fire extinguishing equipment readily available.

Proper notification must be given to the state forester. The notice shall contain all information required by the state forester. The burning must be conducted within state laws and regulations.

Sec. 10-5, Fires shall be prohibited as follows. The County Fire Marshal may prohibit open burning when atmospheric conditions or other conditions make fires hazardous.

The following materials are prohibited to be burned in an open fire: asphalt/asphalt materials, paint, plastics, metals, treated wood, paper, petroleum products, demolition debris, dead animals, construction debris, household chemicals, household garbage, tires, trade waste and cardboard.

Sec. 10-6. Criteria for determining hazards. County Council can assist in determining when fires are hazardous.

Sec. 10-7. Prohibited on County roads, drainage rights-of-way and adjacent areas. Open burning is prohibited on all County roads and drainage rights-of-way.

Sec. 10-8. Exemptions.

·Vegetative burning for forestry, wildlife and agricultural burns, as authorized by the S.C. Forestry Commission.

·Open burning for the preparation of food for immediate consumption, or campfires and fires used solely for recreational purposes, ceremonial occasions or human warmth.

Sec. 10-9. Restrictions; exceptions.

Smoke production must end and no combustible material may be added to the fire between sunset of one day and sunrise of the next day.

Items not addressed within the ordinance will be enforced by governing fire codes. The Fire Marshal is authorized to order the extinguishment of open burning.

Sec. 10-10. Hazardous or toxic materials.

The burning of hazardous or toxic materials is not permitted.

**The complete Fire Prevention and Protection Ordinance is available at rcgov.us*

***As defined under the Richland County Land Development Code*