

Open Burning

The Office of Environmental Health regulates Open Air Burning through COMAR 26.11.07. This regulation authorizes specific burning activities to occur through an application process. Materials proposed to be burned are therefore subject to review by the Office of Environmental Health. Typically, once an application for a burning permit is submitted, which is an \$80.00 fee, a representative from the Office of Environmental Health conducts a site visit to the proposed burn site to ensure the material to be burned complies with the provisions outlined in the above referenced regulation. General Rules for Open Burning include the following:

- A permit must be secured for each operation, except as provided in COMAR 26.11.07.
- No nuisance may be created.
- The burn must be at a minimum of 200-feet from any habitable dwelling or place where people congregate.
- The burn must be a minimum of 200-feet from a roadway.
- Burning is limited to only those materials generated on site.
- No tires, heavy oil or other smoke-producing fuel may be used to start fires.
- Materials cannot be burned which produce a dense smoke. Asbestos materials, plastics, tar paper, vinyl siding and asphalt shingles are prohibited from burning.
- Provision must be made for proper ventilation of the burning material to avoid excess smoke and to promote rapid and complete combustion.
- If the material to be burned is located within 200 feet of a woodland or flammable material that could ignite and carry fire to a woodland, approval must also be obtained from the Forest Ranger, Department of Natural Resources, Forest, Park and Wildlife Services.
- **NOTIFICATION TO TALBOT COUNTY OPERATIONS CENTER OF A BURNING ACTIVITY IS REQUIRED BUT IS NOT AUTHORIZATION TO BURN.**
- See link to Environmental Health and Open Burning for additional details or contact the Office of Environmental Health with questions about Open Burning at 410-770-6880.