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## **Outdoor Burning by Permit - March 1**

March 1<sup>st</sup> marks the opening of outdoor burning by permit in western Montana. All burns require a permit, which you may obtain at the County Burn Permit System online at <https://app.mt.gov/burnpermit/>. Folks can also get a permit at a local fire department station, but should call ahead to confirm the option is available in 2017. All permits cost \$5. Also, don't forget that you can RENEW your permit. All of your information from last year is saved and ready to go. Check your mail each spring for a postcard with your permit number, or call the City-County Health Department (258-4755).

Before lighting your fire you must activate your permit either online or by calling the automated activation phone line at 1-888-583-6497 after 9:00 am on the day you wish to burn. When dispersion is poor, burn restrictions are required to protect public health.

With the exception of small cooking or recreational fires, every fire ignited in Missoula County; including those on public lands require a Burn Permit if you want to burn yard waste (leaves, grass, branches) or manage vegetation (agriculture or forested property). You can burn outdoors in the spring with a General Outdoor Burn Permit available March 1 - August 31. To prevent your burn from spreading fire to surrounding vegetation and structures, think like a firefighter and take every precaution. Knowing what and how to burn is as important as getting a Burn Permit and activating it Online or by phone the day that you burn. All General Outdoor Burns must begin after 9 am and be fully extinguished by 4 pm, unless your local fire department has granted an extension. Remember: If your fire gets out of control, you will be liable for fire suppression costs as well as any damage your fire causes to the surrounding community. For additional information, contact Jordan Koppen with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation at (406) 542-4321 or visit [MCFPA.org](http://MCFPA.org)