

PLATTE COUNTY

Open Burning Guidelines

The Platte County Commission establishes burning bans during certain times of the year to protect public health and safety. Generally, these bans start in early July and run through September/mid-October but change each year based on weather and drought conditions. Open burning is allowed when no burning restrictions are in place.

This guidance is intended to help county residents plan open burning activities outside the fire ban period:

1. You may need a permit from the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality. They can be reached at **307-777-7391** (M-F, 8 am to 5 pm) or you can visit their website at <https://deq.wyoming.gov/aqd/smoke-management-and-open-burning/open-burning/>
2. Call Platte County Dispatch (**307-322-2140**) to make sure there are no fire bans in effect when you want to burn. When Dispatch receives a report of smoke, the dispatchers can check to see if planned burns have been “called in” for the area. If there are no reports of planned burns, fire districts will be dispatched resulting in unnecessary expense and causing volunteers to take time away from their families and lives for an unnecessary call.
3. When making a burn pile keep the following in mind:
 - Clear a 10-foot perimeter around the pile to reduce spread potential
 - Do not place the pile close to structures, or other combustible fuels
 - Keep piles at least 100 feet from power lines and poles
 - Keep the pile to a manageable size – this will be site dependent but smaller than 10 feet x 10 feet is preferred in most cases.
4. On the day of the burn.
 - If possible, burn after snow or rain. This reduces the chance of other fuels igniting from heat or embers
 - Burn on a day that is cooler, winds are relatively calm, and relative humidity is high. If the weather has been warm and dry, postpone the burn until weather conditions improve.
 - Check the fire often on the day of the burn
 - Check the fire for a few days after the burn until you are sure it is out. The coals can stay hot for a long time.
 - If you are concerned about losing the fire, call Dispatch immediately
5. If you have questions, call Jamie Rietz at 307-322-6041