



## Steamboat Springs Fire Rescue

Serving The Community Since 1897

### Open Burning Verses Agricultural Burning

#### Definition of Open Burning

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, smudge pots and similar devices associated with safety or occupational uses typically considered open flames or recreational fires. Slash piles that are larger than 3 feet in diameter are considered Open Burning.

“Open Burning” or slash pile burning is only allowed within the Burn Season of November 1 through April 15 and there must be a minimum of 6 inches of snow covering the ground at the burn area. A permit from Fire Prevention is not required when these specific parameters are present. Steamboat Springs Fire Prevention reserves the right to extend the burn season depending on weather conditions.

Also, a “Routt County Application for Air Quality Open Burning Permit” must be obtained from the Routt County Environmental Health Department, call 970-879-0185.

#### Definition of Agricultural Burning

As established in Colorado Air Quality Control Commission’s Regulation 9, agricultural open burning is “the burning of cover vegetation for the purpose of preparing the soil for crop production, weed control, maintenance of water conveyance structures related to agricultural operations, and other agricultural cultivation purposes.” **NOTE: Agricultural Burning (Ag Burn) does not require a burn permit.** Open burning of animal parts or carcasses is **not** agricultural burning (unless the State Agricultural Commission declares a public health emergency that requires the burning of diseased animal carcasses). Open burning of household trash, wood, and yard debris (even if it is on agricultural land) is **not** agricultural burning and is not exempt from State permitting requirements.