



# SAFE DEBRIS BURNING

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## About Debris Burning

Before doing any burning near wildland areas, contact your local fire protection district. There are many factors to consider when planning this type of burning. The fire protection officer will weigh all of them, and explain them to you. You may decide not to burn; but if you decide to go ahead, the fire protection officer can offer technical advice.

Weather is important. Windy, dry days are not suitable for burning, because of the added danger that the fire will escape your control. Be sure to stay with your fire until it is out.

Debris fires account for about one fourth of the more than 100,000 forest fires that blacken the USA each year. Here's what you can do to cut down this waste.

### General Rules For Safe Debris Burning:

- Make sure you have a valid permit.
- Check with local officials – outside burning may be prohibited.
- Check the weather – don't burn on dry, windy days.
- Local fire officials can recommend a safe way for burning debris. It should be placed in a cleared area, away from overhead branches and wires.
- Debris should not be accumulated for several days and then ignited. It becomes compacted and wet, increasing the air pollution, and makes the fire burn longer, requiring more watching.
- Check local laws on burning debris. Some communities allow burning only during specified hours; others forbid it entirely.
- Consider the alternatives to burning. Some types of debris, such as leaves, grass, and stubble, may be of more value if they are not burned. Household trash should be hauled away to a recycling station.

**If you must burn debris, do it safely.**

**Get more information from your local fire protection district.**