

Effective February 1, 2018 Sevier County residents will be required to use online system to get a burn permit.

As everyone starts to get anxious about spring, the thought of cleaning and clearing your yard and property starts to become a bit daunting and most everyone resorts to lighting a match and burning it all. But, there is a problem... unless you get a burn permit you are creating a nuisance and can be charged with a crime for starting that pile of leaves or old fencing on fire.

Utah law requires a burn permit in order to burn anything, which includes the requirement that you check the "clearing index" for the day you want to burn. The Sevier County Fire Warden and Fire Department Chiefs have found a way to make it easier to get a burn permit and find out if and when it is permissible to burn. By going to a website, <http://air.utah.gov/OpenBurning/form/index.php> you can fill out a burn permit request if it is during the set burn season. The dates for the burn seasons are on the website. As you request a date to burn, the website will automatically check the weather forecast for a clearing index. If the clearing index is below 500 feet you will not be allowed to burn. The website will make you choose a different date to burn. Once you do get a valid burn permit it will send an email the fire chief or warden letting them know you are burning and have a burn permit. You still have one more step before you burn, you must contact the Richfield Public Safety Communications Center, or Dispatch, phone number (435)896-6471, and let them know where and when you are going to burn and when you plan on being done. You don't want to be responsible for causing an emergency response and put lives at risk just because you didn't notify Dispatch. It is a class B misdemeanor if you don't notify Dispatch before you burn and if your burn does affect your neighbors it will be considered a nuisance and you can be cited and must put the fire out. So it's a good idea to visit with your neighbors as well and let them know you plan on burning.

We know and understand this is a bit different than many are used to but it the way it is. It will also make things much easier for the fire department chiefs, especially because they are all volunteers and have regular day jobs in addition to being fire chief. We went and made it easy for you if you don't want to remember the long website address above, by going to scsoutah.com and clicking on the "Links" tab you will find a link for the online burn permit website.

There is only one exception to the burn permit and burn season rule, and this is agricultural burns. Agricultural burns are described as:

- (1) burning incident to horticultural or agricultural operations of: (a) prunings from trees, bushes, and plants; or (b) dead or diseased trees, bushes, and plants, including stubble; (2) burning of weed growth along ditch banks incident to clearing these ditches for irrigation purposes; (3) controlled heating of orchards or other crops to lessen the chances of their being frozen so long as the emissions from this heating do not violate minimum standards set by the board; and (4) the controlled burning of not more than two structures per year by an organized and operating fire department for the purpose of training fire service personnel when the United States Weather Service clearing index for the area where the burn is to occur is above 500'*

(Utah code 19-2-114)

If it is not one of the above described types of burn, then it is not considered an agricultural burn. If you have questions, feel free to contact one of the fire chiefs or the county fire warden to get some clarification. They will work with you if you take the time to plan ahead.

Utah fire and burn permit related codes:

76-6-102 Arson

76-6-104 Reckless Burning

76-6-104.5 Abandon Fire

76-10-803 Public Nuisance Law

R652-120-500 Burning Permits General

65A-8-211 FFSL Burn Permits Closed Season

R307-202-4 Online Burn Permit law (Air Quality)

R307-204 Prescribed Fire (Air Quality)

19-2-114 Ag Exclusions