

Control Burning at your Landfill

Uncontrolled burning at a landfill poses serious health and safety risks for your community. Improper burning releases chemicals and particulates that may cause breathing problems, lung disease, and other health problems, especially for the young and the elderly.

Wildfires that are started by unattended or uncontrolled landfill fires destroy many acres of land and endanger homes and lives every year. For wildfires caused by landfill fires, the landfill permit holder is held responsible and may face serious penalties.

To reduce the health and safety risk associated with burning, follow these requirements:

1. **NO BURNING TRASH ON THE GROUND** unless your landfill permit specifically allows for controlled burning in a trench.
2. No burning may take place during a statewide or local burn ban, unless authorized by your Division of Forestry Area Office [forestry.alaska.gov] or the Alaska Fire Service [(907) 356-5511/fire.ak.blm.gov/afs].
3. Clear all brush and dead vegetation within 50 feet of the landfill perimeter. All vegetation within 10 feet of the burn area must also be cleared.
4. All burning must be conducted in a fully-functional burn unit or in a designated trench as allowed by the landfill permit. Damage to any burn unit components must be repaired as soon as practical.
5. Fire suppression material must be available at the landfill during any burn.
6. Do not store waste within 25 feet of the burn unit (trench) as it could catch fire. Keep waste as dry as possible using a cover or storage facility.
7. Separate household hazardous waste and other materials that should not be burned, including pressurized containers (aerosol cans, ammunition, propane cylinders, etc.), from garbage that will be burned. All material that cannot be burned should be disposed separately at the working face or collected and backhauled to an appropriate disposal or recycling facility.
8. Only the operator may light the burn, and must remain at the landfill or burn area until the burning is complete.
9. Only burn during favorable weather with wind blowing away from the community; do not burn in high winds.
10. Do not allow waste to smolder, and ensure that ash is completely cool before placing at the working face.

An important reminder from the
Alaska Department of
Environmental Conservation
Solid Waste Program
907.269.7802

