

Checklist for Open burning & Air Curtain Burning in the Central Okanagan

Who can get a burning permit under provincial, regional and local regulations?

	Farmers	Residents		Conditions		
	-Agricultural operations	-Minimize wildfire hazards	Duration	PM _{2.5}	Venting Index (VI)	Setbacks
Open burning	✓	✓	-For less than one day -For a consecutive period less than 2 days	Less than 15 µg/m ³	65+	-New provincial setbacks for open burning apply Please verify if your property and the piles' location complies with the provincial setbacks for a one-day burning HERE https://www.rdco.com/airquality
Air curtain burning	✓	✓	-For one or more days Starts one hour after sunrise* and ends depending on daily VI		Day 1-VI 65+ Day 2 & 3-VI 34+	

* In the Central Okanagan, due to frequent temperature inversions and poor pollutant dispersion, it is recommended fires should not be started until after 10 am as the venting index is rarely good in the morning. AVOID smoke complaints.

Important information

- The new Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation ([OBSCR](#)) divides the province in [high smoke sensitivity](#), medium and low zones. The Central Okanagan Region is within the "High Sensitivity Zone" and several [new requirements](#) apply.
- This checklist is intended for **guidance only** in to help Central Okanagan residents comply with applicable OBSCR requirements. This document may be impacted by changes in legislation, bylaws, policies, and procedures adopted after the date of publication. The use of this publication does not constitute the rendering of legal advice and **do not certify** 100% compliance with all OBSCR requirements.
- This is NOT a permit**, but a **guide** to verify general compliance with provincial and regional regulations for a one-day open burning and when using air curtain burners in a "High Sensitivity Zone".
- Keep this checklist for your records.
- Under local and regional bylaws, only residents that have properties greater than 1ha (2.47 acres) can apply to get a burning permit. Anyone who is caught burning without a Burning Permit or breaking the rules of their permit could receive a fine and be charged the cost of the fire department responding to a burning complaint or for the extinguishment of the fire.
- Under [OBSCR](#) part 6 section 32 (1), (2) and (3) a person who contravenes specific OBSCR sections is liable on conviction to fines between \$5,000 and \$200,000.

Instructions

- If burning is your last resort, use this checklist to verify general compliance with new provincial regulations
- Depending on the type of burning, records of moisture content, verified records (by specific professionals) of debris being infested with a pathogen or insect are required by provincial regulation.



SECTION 1 – APPLICANT AND OPERATOR INFORMATION

Check the box of the burn location

Kelowna

West Kelowna

Peachland

Lake Country

RDCO:

East or

West

Type of Burning:

Open Burning

Forced Air Technology/Air Curtain Burning (ACB):

a) ACB above ground equipment or

b) ACB on pit/trench

Property type:

Agricultural land/Farm Status (1ha+)

Residential (1ha+)

Residential under plan for Wildfire Risk Reduction

Name: _____

Check one: Lease or Property owner

Business Name: _____ NA Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____
Number Street City Postal Code

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Address of Burning site _____
Only if different from above Num. Street City Postal Code

Complete only if using Forced Air Technology (Air Curtain Burning) :

Who is responsible for conducting the burn? Choose a) or b)

a) Same as above

b) Contractor/Air Curtain Burner operator's name _____

Business Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____
Num. Street City Postal Code

Contact phone during burning: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

If using an Air Curtain Burner, the estimated number of hours to complete the burn are _____ hrs. (daily conditions apply)

SECTION 2 – RESIDUE INFORMATION

2.1 The residue comes from which Best Management Practice (BMP)?

☐ Fuel Management

☐ Prunings

☐ Orchard Removal

☐ Orchard Transition

☐ Pathogen Control

☐ Research

☐ Insect Control

☐ Other _____

2.2 If Best Management Practice is **Pathogen or Insect Control** the following conditions are met:

☐ NA

The vegetative debris is verified as being infested with a pathogen or insect listed in Schedule 1 of **OBSR** by the following professional:

Attach results. Describe any special comments/recommendations:

At least 50% of the vegetative debris open burned is diseased vegetative debris; Choose a) or b)

a) The diseased vegetative debris is seasoned

b) The diseased vegetative is not seasoned and an accelerant will be used

2.3 The Permitted burning material is not comprised of any stumps and the largest part of each separate portion of the vegetative debris has a diameter less than 50cm.

2.4 The permitted burning materials are not treated and have a minimal soil content

2.5 Estimated total number of piles

2.6 Pile size is smaller than 3m in width x 2m in height? Yes No
Provide average pile size for this burning m length X m width X m height

2.7 Dryness of material: Choose a) or b)

a) <input type="checkbox"/> Permitted burning material is seasoned for at least two years When did the trees/prunings were torn out/cut? (MM/DD/YYYY): ____ ____ ____	b) Permitted burning material has less than 30% moisture content? Records of moisture content of each pile should be kept.
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2.8 Variety/Type of trees/residue being removed/prunings from:

☐ Apple

☐ Cherrie

☐ Peach

☐ Pear

☐ Berry

☐ Pine

☐ Spruce

☐ Fir

☐ Cedar

☐ Other _____

SECTION 3 – ALTERNATIVES PERSUED BEFORE BURNING

OBSCR states. A person who targets vegetative debris for open burning must, before the open burning is carried on by that person or another person, ensure that every reasonable alternative for reducing, reusing or recycling the vegetative debris is used in order to minimize the amount of the vegetative debris to be open burned.

The following alternatives for reducing, reusing or recycling have been pursued to minimize the amount of material to be burned. Check “**Alternatives to Minimize Smoke**” and **Alternatives to Burning**.

3.1 Total number of acres treated this season (Alternatives+ Burning)? acres

		Yes	No	Estimate percentage from total woody material (%)	You may record estimates/costs for treatment (rent chipper, fees at landfill, etc.)
Alternatives	Wood salvage (firewood)				
	Wood Chipped (Mow-Chip it Program)				
	Year-round drop off at landfill				
	Curbside yard waste pickup				
	Flail mow				
	Other _____				
Burning	a. Open Burning				
	b. Air curtain burning				
Total=Alternatives + burning (a or b) should be 100%				%	

SECTION 4 –ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Permit applicants are required to obey all applicable federal, provincial and local bylaws for Burning. All outlined conditions in this checklist are applicable to every person to whom a burning permit is issued. This list is by no means exhaustive and is only intended for guidance:

If granted a permit, I agree to comply with the conditions contained in the burning permit and in this general checklist;

The information provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge;

I believe the proposed burning is reasonably necessary, and that no other practical alternative exists;

If I am demonstrating necessity to burn, I certified that have read, understand and will follow the general conditions below, all other applicable conditions described in the burning permit issued by the local Fire Department, and the applicable regional and local bylaws: OBSCR , RDCO **Bylaw 773 & Bylaw 1066**. Peachland **Bylaw 1718** . Lake Country **Bylaw 612** . City of West Kelowna **Bylaw 0114**. City of Kelowna **Bylaw 10760** Local bylaws that meet or exceed the provincial regulation are still enforceable by local governments.

No person shall burn on any fire permitted pursuant to OBSRC, regional and local Bylaws; tires, treated lumber, plastics, railway ties, drywall, manure, demolition waste, rubber, domestic waste, asphalt, paint, asphalt products, hazardous waste, fuel and lubricant containers, tar, paper biomedical waste, compostable materials and wood debris that result from land being cleared or partially cleared to help prepare the land for a different use;

If a burning permit is issued. The burning permit only allows 12 days or portions of days in each calendar year, and 6 days or portions of days in each calendar month. The fire season in the Central Okanagan usually starts on October 1st and ends April 30th the following year. Start and end of a fire season is subject to change by the Fire Chiefs;

Open burning is **only** permitted in the Central Okanagan when the **Venting Index is 65 or greater and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) concentration is less than 15 µg/m³**. Conditions are updated daily at approximately 8:00am at www.rdc0.com/airquality or can also be accessed by calling 1-855-262-BURN (2876);

Shall ensure that the open burning starts not earlier than one hour after sunrise AND the open burning ends by 4 p.m. or two hours before sunset, whichever is later, on the same day the open burning starts. For better pollution dispersion in this region, it is recommended start the fires after 10:00 am.

Shall burn materials that originate from the property on which the burning permit is issued. At least some of the individual branches or pieces are 10 cm or greater in diameter;

The materials to be burned are restricted to untreated wood, prunings, branches, tree trunks, stumps or other vegetation that have been allowed to dry for at least two years or alternatively have a moisture content less than 30%: [Choose a\)](#) [or](#) [b\)](#)

- a) at the time of burning the wood has been allowed to dry for at least two (2) years
- b) at the time of burning the wood has a moisture content less than 30% (records are available and can be presented to the correspondent authority).

A person who carries on open burning using one or more category 3 open fires or one or more air curtain incinerators must ensure that a record is made in accordance to OBSCR Part 6. "Category 3 open fire" means an open fire that burns

- (a) material concurrently in 3 or more piles each not exceeding 2 m in height and 3 m in width,
- (b) material in one or more piles each exceeding 2 m in height or 3 m in width, or
- (c) one or more windrows;

The fire should comply with the minimum setbacks for a **one-day** open burn required by provincial legislation: [Choose a\)](#) [or](#) [b\)](#)

- a) If the burning is approved for Open burning and using Air Curtain Burners:

500m from schools, hospitals and care facilities and 100m from residences, business

Printout of Open
Burning Setbacks
is attached

- b) If the burning is approved for plan community wildfire risk reduction or vegetative diseased:

100m from schools, hospitals and care facilities and 50m from residences and business

If burning is approved for plan community wildfire risk reduction or vegetative diseased, the person who carry on the burning should ensure; no later than 24 hours in advance of starting the open burning, all reasonable efforts are made to give notification of the location of the open burning to the occupants of all residences, businesses, schools, hospitals and community care facilities within 150 m of the open burning, including by giving notification to the persons who manage the school, hospital or community care facility, as applicable.

If the burning is conducted using **Air Curtain Burning (ACB)**, the following conditions apply:

NA

A person may carry on open burning using air curtain incinerators if the open burning is carried on:

between 500 m and 2 km from the nearest property line of all schools, hospitals and community care facilities

Printout of
ACB Setbacks
is attached

& between 100 m and 1 km from residences and business;

- i. the open burning starts not earlier than one hour after sunrise.
- ii. the vegetative debris is added to the ignited air curtain incinerators only during the period that starts one hour after sunrise and ends at sunset
- iii. *The VI should be 65+ for the day the open burning is to be started*
- iv. *The VI should be 34+ on the second and any consecutive days.* If the VI forecast is less than 34 for the day the burning is carried on, no more of vegetative debris is ignited
- v. "opacity" means the degree to which smoke obscures the view of an object in the background, expressed numerically from 0% (transparent) to 100% (opaque), as determined in accordance with the United States Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Part 60, Chapter 1, Appendix A-4, Method 9, as amended from time to time;
 - (a) opacity does not exceed 40% during the 30-minute period following the start of the open burning and does not exceed 15% for more than 5 consecutive minutes during any other 30-minute period during the open burning;
 - (b) the vegetative debris is not stacked above the air outlet of the air curtain incinerators;
 - (c) the blowers of the air curtain incinerators operate continuously until the air curtain incinerators cease combustion of the vegetative debris or until all of the vegetative debris that is being open burned in them is reduced to ash;
 - (d) the air curtain incinerators are operated in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations;
 - (e) a copy of the manufacturer's recommendations referred to in paragraph (d) is kept on the site of the open burning for the duration of the open burning.

The open burning of any permitted burning materials that result from the land being cleared or partially cleared of vegetation to help prepare the land for a different non-farming use (e.g.: farmland to residential, forest land to residential, forest land to open areas, etc.). is expressly prohibited in regional bylaws;

Shall extinguish all fires completely upon suspension or cancellation of the burning permit, or when instructed to do so by the Fire Chief or his inspectors;

Shall be responsible for the cost of providing additional personnel and equipment that the Fire Chief may require to suppress any escape or threaten escape or threatened escape of the fire authorized by the local Fire Department.

Print name / Signature of Responsible Party _____ Date _____

Check OBSCR Frequently Asked Questions. Further questions about the new Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation should be sent to OBSCR@gov.bc.ca

Anyone impacted by smoke from burning activities can contact the 24-hour RAPP (Report All Poachers and Polluters) tip line: 1-877-952-7277 (Conservation Officer Service) or [Online](#).

If you have any questions about how to use this checklist or the burning setback map, please contact Air Quality (airquality@kelowna.ca), 250-469-8408