



CRESTED BUTTE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

306 MAROON AVENUE

P.O. BOX 1009

CRESTED BUTTE, COLORADO 81224

970-349-5333

FAX: 970-349-3420

PROCEDURES FOR BURNING

Gunnison County and Emergency Response Agencies have been over-extended by "Controlled Burns" getting out of control. This condition has necessitated the initiation of an ordinance concerning burning.

All burns must be called into Gunnison Communications at 641-8200 prior to ignition and upon completion of burning. Gunnison Communications will be able to advise you if a burn ban or Red Flag Day exists. Burning will not be allowed if a ban or dangerous conditions exist. Inversion conditions should also be avoided to lessen effects on air quality.

Failure to report these burns will lead to billing from emergency responders when they respond to a controlled burn.

Burning shall be supervised by one or more responsible persons, depending on the type of burning. Larger fires may require closer supervision to eliminate the possibility of fire spreading beyond control. Precautions shall be taken to localize the burning and shall in no way pose a fire hazard to persons or property within or adjacent to the area of burning.

It is the responsibility of the fire owner to insure an adequate water source is available to extinguish the fire completely before leaving.

Slash piles should be as dirt-free as possible, and after burn out should be scattered to ensure no embers exist. Fires have started several months after burn piles were thought to be burned out.

The responsibility of containment rests solely with the person owning the fire, and the liability for damage caused to adjacent properties is also the responsibility of the owner of the fire.

EXEMPT FROM REQUIRED CALL-IN ARE CAMPFIRES, BAR-B-QUE AND SMALL FIRES (6 ft. or less in diameter) IN RECOGNIZED CONTAINMENT

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR CONTROLLED BURNS IN GUNNISON COUNTY

Please use the following guidelines when requesting a controlled, supervised open burn:

1. Call Gunnison Dispatch at **641-8200** and ask if there is a “Burn Ban” or “Red Flag” warning in effect.
2. If there is not a “Burn Ban” or “Red Flag” warning in effect, then inform dispatch that you want to have a controlled, supervised open burn.
3. Provide Gunnison Dispatch with the following information:
 - a. The location and address of the burn
 - b. The person responsible for the burn
 - c. The person supervising the burn
 - d. The time the fire is to be ignited
 - e. The time the fire will be **fully extinguished**
 - f. A callback phone number for the **responsible** and **supervising** persons
4. **All burns shall be fully extinguished by the time stated!**

Please see the attached information from Gunnison County concerning procedures and guidelines for safe burning.

****MAKE A PHONE CALL AND BE INFORMED BEFORE YOU BURN****

Guidelines for Safe Burning

****Notify Gunnison County Communications at 641-8200 before igniting your fire****

DITCH AND FIELD BURNING

1. Notify Gunnison County Communications at 641-8200 before igniting a ditch or field fire. Notify them again upon completion of burn.
2. Consider options to burning. Mowing fields may provide similar results without the risks of an escaped fire.
3. Keep in mind fuels and topography. Dense fuels and slope will cause a fire to increase in intensity. These fires will burn hotter and move faster and are difficult to fight.
4. Don't burn alone. Have several helpers.
5. Have a shovel or rake for every person helping you.
6. Wear appropriate clothing. Synthetic Fibers will melt. You should wear cotton/wool outerwear, leather boots and leather gloves.
7. Set up a water source before burning. Have a garden hose that will reach entire burn. For larger fires have a pickup or ATV with a water tank. Turn water on before burning.
8. Check the weather. You can obtain a local forecast by visiting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration web site at www.noaa.gov. Keep in mind that this will give a general forecast for an area. Weather conditions can change within a very small area due to land formations.
9. Postpone your burn if windy weather is predicted.
10. Personally observe weather conditions. Postpone your burn even if it is slightly breezy. Observe the sky; postpone your burn if you can see thunderstorms building in any direction.
11. Plan the area to be burned, and keep the burn area small enough so that if the wind increases, you can put fire out.
12. Make sure there is a barrier between the fire and any buildings, propane tanks, etc. Barriers may be roads, streams, driveways or lawns. You can be held criminally and financially responsible if you destroy your neighbor's property.
13. Mow around utility poles and telephone pedestals before burning. Wet down grass at base of poles with water.
14. Dial 911 immediately if fire starts to get away. Have a cell phone with you while burning.
15. If fire gets away from you, don't get in front of it. Begin fighting the fire at its base and progress around the sides. Stay inside the safety of the burned area, or close enough to it so you can quickly get in it all times.
16. Don't leave fire unsupervised. Take extra time to make sure it is completely out before you leave it.

Slash Pile Burning

1. Notify Gunnison County Communications at 641-8200 before igniting the slash pile(s). Notify them again upon completion of burn.
2. Consider options to burning piles. Chipping piles may provide similar results without the risk of an escaped fire.
3. Don't pile slash within 15 feet of trees.
4. Burn only in late November through February with a minimum of six inches snow cover.
5. Piles should be built tightly to keep snow from penetrating into the pile. Snow in the pile will slow combustion or extinguish the pile.
6. Piles should be constructed twice as high as they are wide to facilitate burning.
7. There should be no soil in the piles. Soil will cause piles to smolder up to several months and may cause fire to escape during warm weather.
8. If soil in the pile cannot be avoided, monitor the pile until it cools. Then use equipment to spread soil and remaining material out on snow. This should be done within a few days of ignition. This will expose burning wood buried in the soil and allow it to burn or go out.
9. Stop lighting before 2:00 pm to avoid nighttime smoke impacts. At night smoke can settle into valleys, causing poor air quality and visibility problems.
10. Stop lighting if wind blows smoke towards a community, road or home site.
11. Check the burn after the spring snowmelt to make sure the fire is out.