Open Burning (Unincorporated Polk County)

This mailer provides information about open burning regulations affecting you, your neighbors or smoke sensitive individuals living in your area.

Did you know? It is illegal to burn these materials in an outdoor fire anywhere in Polk County.
- Garbage
- Paint
- Cardboard
- Tires
- Plastics Containers
- Metals
- Asphalt
- Petroleum Products
- Lumber
- Paper
- Demolition Debris
- Construction Debris
- Household Waste

ALLOWED materials (Unincorporated Polk County, Iowa) Landscape waste originating on your property: yard waste, grass clippings, leaves, twigs, small branches, etc. Burning of hauled-in landscape waste is prohibited. The material must originate or grow on your own property.

Regulatory Notice: Currently open burning is allowed by regulation in unincorporated Polk County. However, open burning may be restricted if a public nuisance is created by the unreasonable or excessive open burning activities.
- Under Polk County regulations & Iowa Code the open burning of certain materials is illegal and subject to penalties.
- PCBOH Chapter V, Section 5-7 prohibits open burning of any hazardous waste, animal waste, animal bedding materials, oils, any household waste, garbage, refuse, plastics, construction materials, tires, wire, insulation, dimensional lumber within Polk County.
- Violations may result in legal action including fines of $100-$500.

If you have questions or comments regarding open burning within Polk County contact us at (515)-286-3705 or Email: airquality@polkcountyiowa.gov