



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner



From: Mark Ledgard, Compliance and Enforcement Program Manager
NH DES Air Resources Division

To: Forest Fire Wardens, Division of Forest and Lands
NH Department of Resources and Economic Development

Date: July 2013

Re: Open Burning Educational Materials For Local Fire Departments and Forest Fire Wardens

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Air Resources Division ("DES") created the attached educational materials to aid local Forest Fire Wardens in educating residents on appropriate open burning. DES is requesting your assistance by placing this memo and the enclosed poster at the fire department where residents can easily read it. In addition, we are asking you to please provide a copy of the Quick Guide to residents when issuing a Permit To Kindle Fire.

Open Burning Restrictions

RSA 125-C, RSA 125-N and the NH Code of Administrative Rules Env-A 1000 prohibit the burning of household trash, construction & demolition debris ("C&D"), brush greater than five inches in diameter, and treated wood (i.e., painted, stained, coated, glued, or treated in any way). These materials release toxic air pollutants directly into the air that pose a risk public health. The resulting ash also may contain levels of contaminants that present a public health and environmental risk by contaminating soil and water.

When non-conforming materials are burned, the NH Code of Administrative Rules Env-Sw 100 *et seq.* requires the ash to be disposed at a facility authorized to receive it. The ash cannot be abandoned, buried, spread or dumped anywhere except at an authorized facility. Ash resulting from burning materials containing asbestos must be disposed of as asbestos waste. For assistance with ash disposal, please contact the DES, Solid Waste Management Bureau at (603) 271-2925.

Permissible Open Burning

Env-A 1000 allows the open burning of untreated brush less than five inches in diameter and untreated lumber scraps, provided these materials originate on-site. The burning of charcoal, campfire wood and pallets is also permissible. In addition, all burning must be conducted in accordance with RSA 227-L and Res 5600. Local town and city ordinances may have additional restrictions.

Contact DES with any questions about open burning at (603) 271-1370, or visit the DES website at: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/cb/ceps/npsap/index.htm>. For additional copies of materials, please contact me at (603) 271-5629, or by email at Mark.Ledgard@des.nh.gov.

*The information provided is effective as of July 2013.