

### Non-Rural counties are:

Alachua, Bay, Brevard, Broward\*, Collier, Dade\*, Duval\*, Escambia, Hillsborough\*, Lake, Lee, Leon, Manatee, Marion, Okaloosa, Orange\*, Palm Beach\*, Pasco, Pinellas\*, Polk, St. Lucie, Sarasota, Seminole and Volusia.

### Penalties for Breaking Outdoor Burning Laws

Any person burning for agricultural, forestry or land clearing purposes without the authorization of the Florida Division of Forestry is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree. This is also the charge for carelessly allowing any fire to escape your control and burn onto the property of another.

The penalty for a second-degree misdemeanor is up to 60 days imprisonment and/or a fine of up to \$500.

*\*Note: The burning of yard trash and household paper is legal in these counties only if municipal, county or commercial solid waste collection service for yard trash is not available on a periodic basis of at least once a week. Prior authorization must be obtained from the Department of Environmental Regulation, and all the guidelines listed above must be observed.*

## Division of Forestry Field Headquarters (By Counties)

### Escambia - Santa Rosa - Okaloosa

Blackwater Forestry Center (850) 957-6140  
11650 Munson Hwy. Milton, Florida 32570

### Walton - Holmes - Washington - Jackson Bay - Calhoun - Gulf

Chipola River Forestry District (850) 872-4175  
715 West 15th Street Panama City, Florida 32401

### Liberty - Leon - Gadsden - Wakulla - Jefferson - Franklin

Tallahassee Forestry District (850) 488-1871  
865 Geddie Road Tallahassee, Florida 32304

### Taylor - Madison - Lafayette - Dixie

Perry Forestry District (850) 838-2299  
618 Plantation Road Perry, Florida 32347

### Columbia - Suwannee - Hamilton - Baker - Bradford - Union

Suwannee Forestry District (386) 758-5700  
Route 7, Box 369 Lake City, Florida 32055

### Duval - Nassau - Clay

Jacksonville Forestry District (904) 266-5003  
Route 2, Box 65 Bryceville, Florida 32009

### Alachua - Putnam - Gilchrist - Marion - Levy

Waccasassa Forestry Center (352) 955-2005  
1600 N.E. 23rd Avenue Gainesville, Florida 32609

### Flagler - St. Johns - Volusia

Bunnell Forestry District (386) 446-6787  
Route 1, Box 20 F Bunnell, Florida 32110

### Hernando - Citrus - Lake - Pasco - Sumter

Withlacoochee Forestry Center (352) 754-6777  
15019 Broad Street Brooksville, Florida 34601

### Orange - Seminole - Osceola - Brevard

Orlando Forestry District (407) 856-6512  
8431 S. Orange Blossom Trail Orlando, Florida 32809

### Polk - Hillsborough - Pinellas

Lakeland Forestry District (863) 648-3163  
5745 S. Florida Avenue Lakeland, Florida 33813

### Manatee - Sarasota - Charlotte - De Soto - Hardee

Myakka River Forestry District (941) 751-7629  
4723 53rd Avenue, East Bradenton, Florida 34203

### Okeechobee - St. Lucie - Indian River - Glades - Martin - Highlands

Okeechobee Forestry District (863) 462-5160  
5200 Highway 441 North Okeechobee, Florida 34972

### Lee - Collier - Hendry

Caloosahatchee Forestry District (941) 694-2181  
10941 State Road 80 Fort Myers, Florida 33905

### Dade - Palm Beach - Broward - Monroe

Everglades Forestry District (954) 475-4120  
3315 S.W. College Ave. Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314

# Know the Law Before You Strike That Match in a Non-Rural County



Florida Department of Agriculture  
and Consumer Services  
Charles H. Bronson, Commissioner

Florida Division of Forestry  
L. Earl Peterson, Director

## Do You Know?

Many people do not know or are not aware of Florida's outdoor burning regulations, either having moved here from out of state or never having a reason to burn. If you are not familiar with the burning regulations in your local area, this brochure can help you.

The Florida Division of Forestry administers Florida's outdoor burning and forest fire laws. In many areas more stringent local laws are enforced. In some counties or cities, no outdoor burning is allowed at all.

Florida's homeowners and landowners will be most concerned with the following laws.

### 590.28 Intentional or careless burning of lands.

Whoever intentionally burns, sets fire to, or causes to be burned or causes any fire to be set to any wildland or vegetative land clearing debris not owned by, or in the lawful possession of, the person setting such fire or burning such lands or causing such fire to be set or lands to be burned without complying with s. 590.125, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

### 590.125 Open burning authorized by the division. (2) NON-CERTIFIED BURNING

(a) Persons may be authorized to burn wild land or vegetative land-clearing debris in accordance with this subsection if:

1. There is specific consent of the landowner or his or her designee;
2. Authorization has been obtained from the Division or its designated agent before starting the burn;
3. There are adequate fire breaks at the burn site and sufficient personnel and firefighting equipment for the control of the fire;
4. The fire remains within the boundary of the authorized area;

5. Someone is present at the burn site until the fire is extinguished;
6. The Division does not cancel the authorization; and
7. The Division determines that air quality and fire danger are favorable for safe burning.

(b) A person who burns wild land or vegetative land-clearing debris in a manner that violates any requirement of this subsection commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

#### Home Incinerators

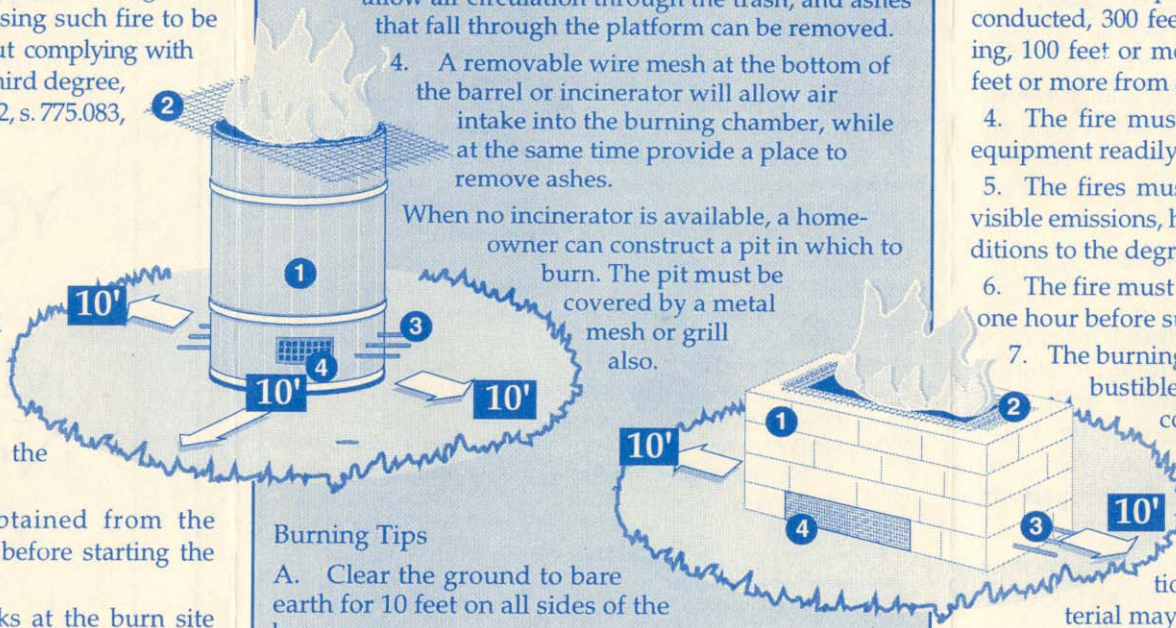
When legal, home incinerators should be:

1. Constructed of a non-combustible material.
2. Be covered by a metal mesh or grill.
3. Have a raised lower platform made of a metal grill or rods, to support the material to be burned. This will allow air circulation through the trash, and ashes that fall through the platform can be removed.
4. A removable wire mesh at the bottom of the barrel or incinerator will allow air intake into the burning chamber, while at the same time provide a place to remove ashes.

When no incinerator is available, a homeowner can construct a pit in which to burn. The pit must be covered by a metal mesh or grill also.

#### Burning Tips

- A. Clear the ground to bare earth for 10 feet on all sides of the burn area.
- B. Avoid areas with trees that have low-hanging limbs or moss.
- C. Know what materials are legal to burn in a home incinerator.



## Residential Trash Burning

Yard trash and household paper may be burned in many Florida counties under certain guidelines without obtaining prior authorization from the State of Florida.

### Definition

Yard trash means vegetative matter resulting from landscaping and yard maintenance operations and includes materials such as tree and shrub trimmings, grass clippings, palm fronds, trees and tree stumps. It does not include household garbage.

### Non-Rural Counties You May Burn If:

1. No local or county ordinance forbids it.
2. The material to be burned must be generated on the premises where it is burned, and the premises can be occupied by no more than two family units.
3. The open burning is 50 feet or more from any residence on the property where the burning is being conducted, 300 feet from any other occupied building, 100 feet or more from any public road and 25 feet or more from any woodlands, forest or brush.
4. The fire must be attended and adequate fire equipment readily available at all times.
5. The fires must not cause smoke, soot, odors, visible emissions, heat, flame, radiation or other conditions to the degree that they become a nuisance.
6. The fire must be started after 9 a.m. and out by one hour before sunset.
7. The burning must be enclosed in a non-combustible container or ground excavation covered by a metal mesh or grill.
8. The moisture content and composition of the material to be burned must be favorable to good burning so that air pollution is minimized. Green or wet material may not be burned.
9. The burning of the following is prohibited: Tires, rubber materials, tar, railroad cross ties, other creosoted lumber, plastics, waste pesticide containers, garbage (food materials), or trash other than yard trash and household paper products.