

A NOTICE TO CITIZENS ABOUT OPEN BURNING LAWS

Did you know that Open Burning is prohibited in Kentucky?

On October 2, 1997 our personnel burned construction demolition debris containing asbestos containing materials on our property at the old Mapleton School, located on Holt Avenue in Mt. Sterling, Montgomery County. This incident was investigated by the Department for Environmental Protection (DEP) and we were cited for violations of open burning laws. In return for reduction of the fine, we have agreed to publish this notice and inform the public about outdoor burning laws.

The Kentucky Open Burning Regulations prohibit burning many things. Generally, you cannot burn materials outside at a residence, farm or business except for the following purposes:

- **Cook-outs and campfires**
- **Burning heavy vegetation and weeds for farming purposes**
- **Burning leaves (check local ordinances)**
- **Burning household trash (paper products only)**
- **Land and fence row clearing**
- **Disposal of trees and limbs felled by storms**

You cannot burn things like old carpet or plastic. You cannot burn down a building, or burn or dump scrap wood from a building which has fallen or been torn down. You cannot use tires or heavy oils which create large amounts of toxic smoke to start even legal fires. Most open burning is not necessary. Brush could be composted, piled up for wildlife, or just left to rot. Your old attic junk could be given away for someone to reuse. By making a few sensible choices, you could reduce the amount of disposable materials you create in the first place.

The reason for these laws is toxic gases can be given off which are not good for people and are certainly not good for the environment. Burning in a sinkhole is one of the worst places to do this illegal activity, since sinkholes are directly connected to groundwater. Groundwater is the source of drinking water for 80% of rural Kentucky. You should be aware that the Kentucky Division of Forestry, the State Fire Marshal's Office and many city and county governments also have laws regarding open burning. When in doubt, call your county solid waste coordinator or the Division for Air Quality at (502) 573-3382.

OPEN BURNING...THINK ABOUT IT.