



ST. MARIES FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

308 W. Jefferson Avenue • St. Maries, ID 83861

Phone: (208) 245-5253 • Fax: (208) 245-2328

2025 BURNING REQUIREMENTS

General Requirements

A copy of these burning regulations and your burning permit must be on site at all times while burning. Please obtain a new copy of the burn requirements yearly, as burning restrictions may have changed.

Burn permits are issued only after a site inspection and approval by a fire district member. Permits are valid for no more than ten (10) days from the date of issue. Renewals will only be issued after or on the expiration date of the current permit, and after a new site inspection.

For burning closures, contact the St. Maries Fire District at (208) 245-5253 or the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) at (208) 245-4551. Burning may be closed at certain times by the IDL, St. Maries Fire Protection District, or Idaho DEQ under Idaho Code, due to hazardous fire conditions or poor air quality.

Before burning, you must also notify Benewah County Dispatch at (208) 245-2555.

Burning is permitted only when Idaho DEQ reports air quality at GREEN. Burning under YELLOW or RED conditions is prohibited.

IDL requires burn permits from May 10 through October 20 for burning outside St. Maries city limits. Permits are free and may be obtained online at <http://burnpermits.idaho.gov/Home.aspx> or by calling the IDL West St. Joe Fire District Office at (208) 245-4551.

1. Residential Yard Waste Burning

- Burning of yard waste is permitted during daylight hours only (sunrise to sunset).
- Residential yard waste includes clean untreated wood, paper, dry vegetation, limbs, and branches.
- Burning wet vegetation (leaves, needles, green limbs) is prohibited.
- Fires must be attended at all times. A water source, extinguisher, and shovel must be on site.
- Burn permits will be issued only to property owners and legal occupants.
- All fires must be at least 50 feet from structures, stacked wood, fences, and utilities.
- Burning trash, treated lumber, plastic, tires, garbage, pallets, painted or hazardous materials is prohibited.
- Burn barrels are prohibited.
- Burning must stop if deemed unsafe, if smoke/odor complaints arise, or if DEQ air quality changes to Yellow or Red.
- Burning is subject to IDL Stage 1 and Stage 2 restrictions.

2. Recreational Burning

- Recreational burning includes cooking fires, campfires, and warming fires no larger than 3 feet wide and 2 feet tall.
- Fires may be day or night but must be fully extinguished and cold to the touch.
- Bonfires of any size require a permit.
- Permits are not required for approved outdoor fireplaces or fire pits.
- Non-certified structures for outdoor burning require inspection and approval by fire officials.

- All recreational fires must be at least 25 feet from structures and combustibles (except BBQ pits).
- Fires must be attended at all times with water, extinguisher, and shovel on site.
- Burn barrels are prohibited.
- Burning is subject to IDL Stage 1 and Stage 2 restrictions.

3. Commercial / Slash Pile Burning

- Regulated by IDL outside St. Maries city limits.
- All open burning (except small recreational fires) requires an IDL permit, valid for 10 days.
- Fires must be attended until fully extinguished, except logging slash piles under safe conditions.
- Burning must follow IDL guidelines for slash, machine piles, and field burning.
- Burning construction debris, trade waste, or hauling debris to another property is prohibited.
- Small warming fires allowed if contained and using clean lumber (no glued products). Fires must be extinguished before leaving.

4. Safe Burning Information

- Fire district personnel will inspect burn sites prior to issuing permits.
- A fire safety break (bare mineral soil) must be cleared around burn areas (10 feet for recreational fires; 2x diameter for bonfires/large burns).
- Fires must be attended at all times by a responsible adult with tools and equipment.
- Burning that creates hazardous smoke, odor, or complaints may be ordered extinguished.
- Check fire danger and air quality daily. Do not burn in windy conditions.
- You are responsible for suppression costs and damages if your fire escapes.
- Failure to comply with requirements may result in revoked permits, fines, denial of future permits, and liability for extinguishment costs.

Authorized By: St. Maries Fire Protection District, Chief