



ST. MARIES FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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

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ST. MARIES FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

2026 BURNING REQUIREMENTS

Effective for the 2026 burning season

These requirements are intended to promote safe burning practices and help prevent wildland and structural fires. All persons conducting outdoor burning are responsible for complying with these requirements, applicable Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) requirements, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) requirements, and any additional restrictions that may be in effect.

IMPORTANT REQUIREMENTS

Burn Permits

Burn permits are required as specified in these requirements. A copy of the applicable burning requirements and the current burn permit must be available **at the burn site at all times while burning**.

Burning restrictions may change throughout the year. Residents should obtain a current copy of the burning requirements each year before conducting an open burn.

Permit Inspection and Duration

Burn permits issued by the St. Maries Fire Protection District shall only be issued after the proposed burn site has been inspected and approved by authorized fire district personnel.

- St. Maries Fire Protection District burn permits are valid for **no more than ten (10) days** from the date of issuance.
- A permit may be renewed **on or after the expiration date** of the current permit.
- Renewal requires another inspection and approval of the burn site by authorized fire district personnel.
- Burn permits will be issued only to the **property owner or legal occupant**.

Burning Restrictions

Before burning, check the current fire danger, air quality, and applicable burning restrictions.

Contact:

St. Maries Fire Protection District

208-245-5253

Idaho Department of Lands – West St. Joe Fire District Office

208-245-4551

Burning may be prohibited or restricted by the Idaho Department of Lands, St. Maries Fire Protection District, or Idaho Department of Environmental Quality because of fire danger, weather conditions, smoke, or poor air quality.

DEQ Air Quality

Burning is permitted only when the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) air quality condition is **Green**.

Burning is prohibited when the DEQ air quality condition is Yellow or Red.

A Green DEQ air-quality rating does **not** override an IDL Stage 1 or Stage 2 restriction.

IDL Fire Restrictions

Burning is allowed or prohibited according to current Idaho Department of Lands Stage 1 and Stage 2 restrictions, even when DEQ air quality is rated Green.

Always check current IDL restrictions before burning.

Dispatch Notification

Before conducting controlled burning, contact:

Benewah County Dispatch

208-245-2555

Notification is required even when a valid burn permit has been issued.

1. RESIDENTIAL YARD-WASTE BURNING

Residential yard-waste burning is subject to the following requirements:

Allowed Materials

Residential yard waste consists of:

- Clean, untreated wood
- Paper
- Dry vegetation
- Dry leaves and needles
- Limbs and branches

Yard waste must be reasonably dry before burning.

Prohibited Materials

The following materials **shall not be burned**:

- Trash or household garbage
- Manure
- Animal parts
- Treated lumber
- Plastic
- Tires
- Pallets
- Painted materials
- Construction debris
- Hazardous materials
- Other materials prohibited by applicable state or local regulations

Burning wet or damp vegetation, including wet leaves, needles, limbs, and branches, is prohibited.

Hours of Burning

Residential yard-waste fires are permitted **during daylight hours only, from sunrise to sunset**, unless additional restrictions prohibit burning.

Clearance Requirements

Yard-waste fires must be located at least **50 feet from**:

- Structures
- Stacked firewood
- Fences
- Electrical utilities
- Propane utilities
- Other combustible materials that could be ignited by the fire

A fire safety break must also be maintained around the burn area.

Attendance and Fire-Suppression Equipment

All yard-waste fires must be attended at all times by a responsible adult.

The following must be available at the burn site:

- An adequate water source
- A water or dry-chemical fire extinguisher
- A shovel

The person conducting the burn is responsible for keeping the fire contained and under control.

Burn Barrels

Burn barrels are prohibited within the St. Maries Fire Protection District coverage area.

Fire District Authority

Fire district personnel and law enforcement officers may require a fire to be discontinued and extinguished if:

- The fire becomes unsafe.
- Smoke or odors are offensive or objectionable.
- Smoke impacts surrounding properties.
- Weather or atmospheric conditions become hazardous.
- DEQ air quality changes to Yellow or Red.
- An IDL fire restriction prohibits the burning.
- The fire escapes or threatens to escape the approved burn area.

2. RECREATIONAL FIRES

Recreational burning includes small cooking fires, campfires, and warming fires.

Size Limit

A recreational fire shall be no larger than:

3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height.

Permit Requirements

A burn permit is **not required** for:

- Portable, factory-built outdoor wood-burning fireplaces; or
- Permanently installed outdoor wood-burning fire pits,

when they are used for recreational fires and otherwise comply with applicable fire-safety requirements.

Bonfires of any size require a burn permit.

Any homemade, modified, or repurposed structure used for outdoor wood burning that was not originally constructed for that purpose must be inspected and approved by the fire code official or designee before use.

Once approved, the structure does not require a burn permit for recreational fires, provided all other requirements are followed.

Hours of Use

Recreational fires may be used during the day or at night, subject to all applicable fire restrictions.

Recreational fires must be **completely extinguished and cold to the touch** before the person responsible leaves the site.

Clearance Requirements

Recreational fires must be at least **25 feet from**:

- Structures
- Trees
- Fences
- Stacked firewood
- Electrical utilities
- Propane utilities
- Other combustible materials

A recreational fire may be located closer than 25 feet to a structure or combustible material when it is contained within an approved barbecue or cooking pit designed for that purpose.

All outdoor fireplaces and fire pits remain subject to inspection when deemed necessary by the fire code official or designee.

Attendance and Fire-Suppression Equipment

Recreational fires must be attended at all times by a responsible adult.

The following must be available at the burn site:

- An adequate water source
- A water or dry-chemical fire extinguisher
- A shovel

Burn Barrels

Burn barrels are prohibited.

Fire Restrictions

Recreational fires are subject to current IDL Stage 1 and Stage 2 restrictions and any additional restrictions imposed by the St. Maries Fire Protection District or other applicable authorities.

3. COMMERCIAL AND SLASH-PILE BURNING

Burning outside the St. Maries city limits is regulated by the **Idaho Department of Lands (IDL)** and must comply with applicable IDL requirements.

IDL Burn Permits

All open burning, except qualifying small recreational fires, requires an IDL burn permit when required by IDL.

IDL burn permits may be obtained through the Idaho burn-permit system:

burnpermits.idaho.gov

IDL burn permits are free.

For additional information, contact:

IDL West St. Joe Fire District Office
208-245-4551

Seasonal IDL Permit Requirement

IDL requires burn permits from **May 10 through October 20** for applicable open burning.

Always verify current IDL requirements and restrictions before burning, as dates and restrictions may change.

Permit Duration

IDL burn permits are valid for **ten (10) days** and may be renewed through the IDL burn-permit system when permitted by IDL.

Attendance

All fires must be attended at all times and completely extinguished before leaving the burn site, **except for logging slash piles that are specifically authorized by IDL to burn unattended or overnight when conditions allow.**

Slash Piles and Other Large Burns

Logging slash piles, machine-generated piles, field burning, and other applicable open burning must comply with current IDL requirements and guidelines.

Construction and Commercial Waste

Burning construction debris by contractors and commercial trades is prohibited by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality.

Debris may not be hauled from one property to another for the purpose of burning it.

Small Warming Fires

Small warming fires during cold weather may be permitted when conditions allow.

Such fires must:

- Be contained;
 - Use clean lumber only;
 - Contain no glued or treated wood products; and
 - Be completely extinguished before leaving the site.
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4. SAFE-BURNING REQUIREMENTS

Inspect the Site Before Burning

Prior to issuing a burn permit, authorized fire district personnel shall inspect the proposed burn location for potential hazards.

The permit holder is responsible for maintaining the burn site in a safe condition throughout the duration of the burn.

Fire Safety Break

A fire safety break should be established around the burn area to prevent the fire from spreading to nearby vegetation or combustible materials.

A fire safety break should consist of ground cleared down to mineral soil.

Recreational Fires

Maintain a minimum **10-foot cleared area** around recreational fires.

This 10-foot fire safety break is separate from the required 25-foot separation from structures and other combustible materials.

Bonfires and Large Burns

Bonfires and other large burns should have a minimum safety clearance of **two times the diameter of the burn area**, measured from the edge of the burn area.

Additional clearance may be required based on site conditions, weather, fuel loading, or the determination of fire district personnel.

Fire Attendance

You are responsible for your fire.

All applicable fires must be attended by a responsible adult with adequate tools and equipment to keep the fire contained and under control.

Never leave a fire unattended unless specifically authorized under applicable IDL requirements.

Weather and Atmospheric Conditions

Do not burn during windy conditions.

Before starting a fire, check:

- Current fire danger
- Weather conditions
- Wind conditions
- DEQ air quality
- IDL fire restrictions
- Any local fire restrictions

If a fire escapes the approved burn area, the responsible party is responsible for taking immediate action to extinguish it and may be responsible for resulting suppression costs and damages.

Smoke and Odors

Open burning that creates offensive or objectionable smoke or odors is prohibited.

A fire official or designee may require a fire to be discontinued and extinguished when:

- Smoke or odors impact surrounding properties;
- Smoke conditions become hazardous;
- Atmospheric conditions create an unsafe situation; or
- Complaints regarding smoke or odors are received.

Fire district personnel and law enforcement officers may require a fire to be extinguished when conditions warrant.

5. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Failure to comply with these requirements or applicable Idaho Department of Lands guidelines may result in:

- Revocation of a burn permit;
- Denial of future burn permits;
- Fines or other enforcement action by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality or other applicable agencies; and/or
- Responsibility for fire suppression or extinguishment costs and damages.

Having a valid burn permit does **not** relieve the person responsible for the fire from complying with current fire restrictions, weather conditions, DEQ air-quality requirements, IDL restrictions, or the directions of fire district personnel or law enforcement.

A permit may be suspended or revoked when conditions become unsafe or when burning is no longer permitted.

6. CITY-LIMIT SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Prohibited Burning Zone within the city of St Maries

An established prohibited zone exists within the city where **burning of trash or debris is prohibited at all times throughout the year.**

The prohibited zone is described as follows:

Beginning at the north side of College Avenue, proceed to the west side of Eleventh Street; then to the east side of Third Street; then one block south to the north side of Jefferson Avenue; then east to the east side of First Street; then north to the south side of the Milwaukee Railroad; then west to the west side of Eleventh Street; then south to the north side of College Avenue.

A map identifying the prohibited zone is attached to the applicable burn permit for reference.

When there is any question regarding whether a property is located within the prohibited zone, contact the St. Maries Fire Protection District before burning.

BEFORE YOU BURN — CHECKLIST

Before starting any burn, make sure you have:

- ☐ Verified that burning is currently allowed.
- ☐ Checked the current DEQ air-quality condition.
- ☐ Checked current IDL fire restrictions.
- ☐ Obtained the required burn permit.
- ☐ Completed any required site inspection.
- ☐ Notified Benewah County Dispatch when required.
- ☐ Confirmed the burn is located the required distance from structures and combustible materials.
- ☐ Created the required fire safety break.
- ☐ Removed prohibited materials from the burn pile.
- ☐ Have an adequate water source available.
- ☐ Have a shovel available.
- ☐ Have a water or dry-chemical fire extinguisher available.
- ☐ Have a responsible adult attending the fire.
- ☐ Confirmed that wind and weather conditions are safe for burning.
- ☐ Have a copy of the current burning requirements and burn permit available at the burn site.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

St. Maries Fire Protection District

208-245-5253

For burn permits, inspections, local burning requirements, and fire restrictions.

Idaho Department of Lands – West St. Joe Fire District

208-245-4551

For IDL burn permits, fire restrictions, and burning requirements outside applicable city limits.

Benewah County Dispatch

208-245-2555

For required notification of controlled burning.

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

Check the current air-quality condition before burning.

Burning is prohibited when the applicable DEQ air-quality condition is Yellow or Red.

Idaho Burn Permit System

burnpermits.idaho.gov

For applicable IDL burn permits.

REMEMBER YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR FIRE.

Never assume that a permit means conditions are safe for burning.

Check current restrictions, weather, fire danger, and air quality before every burn.

If conditions become unsafe, extinguish the fire immediately.

