

Frequently Asked Questions

Who should I contact prior to burning in my yard?

The City of North Charleston Fire Prevention Bureau, led by Ray Hoshall, Fire Marshal (843-740-2617), is available Monday–Friday, 7:30 am–5:30 pm at the following numbers:

843-740-2618	843-740-2624
843-740-2622	843-740-2625
843-740-2623	843-740-2643

Prior to any Saturday or Sunday burning, please call 843-745-1015.

What information do I need to provide the Fire Department?

Upon calling, please have ready your name, phone number, address of the burn site, what time you plan to begin burning, and what items you plan to burn.

What items am I allowed to burn?

Leaves, limbs, and trimmed vegetation are the only items citizens are allowed to burn in the City of North Charleston.

Any item that will emit black smoke or toxic fumes is **not allowed** to be burned. A few examples of these items include paper, plastics, saw lumber, tires, and pallets.

Are there any size restrictions for my burn pile?

Yes, to keep a safe burning environment, your burn pile should be less than three feet (3') in diameter and less than two feet (2') in height.

Are there any situations when I cannot burn in my yard?

Yes, if a Red Flag Alert has been issued by the State Forestry Commission, conditions are not favorable for burning in your area. You can check for Red Flag Alerts on the web at www.state.sc.us/forest/fyard.html or by contacting the North Charleston Fire Prevention Bureau through the phone numbers posted above.

Please also refrain from burning under windy conditions. If in doubt, check your local weather forecast.



WHEN TO BURN

- Under favorable weather conditions.
- Burning must begin between the hours of 9:00 am and 3:00 pm. No combustible material may be added to the fire after 3:00 pm. You must wait until 9:00 am the following day to resume adding any combustible items to your burn pile.

WHERE TO BURN

- Only on your own property—this does not include easements or right of way areas.
- Burn piles should be located at a minimum of fifty feet (50') from any structure, power source, trees, or roadways.
- Fires contained in a pre-approved waste burner may be safely located at least fifteen feet (15') from any structure.

HOW TO BURN

- Open burning must be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished.
- An approved method for putting out the fire must be available for immediate use throughout the burning period.

PLEASE REMEMBER

- You are liable for any damage caused by your fire.
- If the fire becomes a public nuisance, it will have to be extinguished.
- These are guidelines only. The City of North Charleston Fire Department is not responsible for any damage caused by open burning.

