

## Alternatives to Burning

### Recycling

If you are not already participating in the curbside recycling program offered by your waste hauler, various recycling centers are located throughout the county for items including: newspaper, glass, aluminum, plastics, cardboard, paper, copper, and brass. For further information on Buy-Back or Drop-Off Collection Centers, call the Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management Department at 813-272-5680. For City of Tampa call 813-348-1111, City of Plant City call 813-757-9208 and City of Temple Terrace call 813-506-6570. County residents who are assessed the annual disposal service charge are entitled to two trips annually to a community disposal center.

### Yard Waste

Your local waste hauler will collect up to two cubic yards of yard waste per week. Tree limbs should be cut in three-foot sections, tied and bundled, not to exceed 50 pounds. Grass, leaves, shrubbery, etc. should be bagged not to exceed 50 pounds with a thirteen bag limit.

If you exceed these limits, your local waste hauler provides a "Special Pick-Up Service" for piles of yard waste. There is a nominal charge for this service. Contact your local waste hauler for more information and prices.

You may also utilize Hillsborough County's Yard & Wood Waste Processing Facility (350 Falkenburg Rd) for large piles of yard waste and untreated wood. Property owners who have been assessed the Solid Waste Annual Disposal Service charge on their property tax bill may utilize the facility at no additional charge. Other residents or businesses may utilize the facility; however, a charge may apply. You may contact the Yard & Wood Waste Processing Facility at 813-744-5599 for more information.

Remember, all residents in Hillsborough County have access to franchised waste services. If you pay property taxes or rent from someone who does, these services are already paid for. For questions regarding how to contact your local waste hauler or to find out the location of a collection center, call Hillsborough County Solid Waste at 813-272-5680. For City of Tampa call 813-348-1111, City of Plant City call 813-757-9208 and City of Temple Terrace call 813-506-6570.

### **Further Questions**

For more information on open burning or any other air quality issue please call the Air Division of the Environmental Protection Commission at 813-627-2600.

### **Mission:**

To protect the natural resources, environment, and quality of life in Hillsborough County.



## Open Burning



## An Informational Guide

**Environmental Protection Commission  
of Hillsborough County  
Air Division  
3629 Queen Palm Drive  
Tampa, FL 33619  
Ph: 813-627-2600**

## Open Burning

Open burning is the burning of any matter in such a manner that the products of combustion resulting from the burning are emitted directly into the outdoor atmosphere without passing through a stack or chimney. All open burning is prohibited within Hillsborough County unless:

- 1)An authorization has been obtained, or
- 2)the burn is exempt from regulation.

Authorizations may be obtained only for agricultural burning or burning associated with initial commercial land clearing or mining operations. **All residential open burning is prohibited including burning of yard waste, tree cutting debris, household garbage, and trash.**

## Types of Authorizations

### Agricultural Burning

Open burning associated with agricultural activities is regulated and approved solely by the Florida Forest Services (FFS). The burning of vegetative material originating on site includes; Prescribed burning, silvicultural operations, range improvement and maintenance of agricultural lands, initial land clearing for agriculture or other agricultural purposes. Those actively involved in the commercial operation of a ranch, farm or grove may obtain a permit from FFS by calling 863-940-6701.

### Initial Land Clearing

The initial uprooting or clearing of vegetation and untreated wood for residential, commercial, or industrial development; mineral operations; clearing and maintenance of rights of way for public highways or roads; and clearing and maintenance by a government or its agent for public flood control and water drainage channels. It does not include landscaping and yard maintenance operations or other such routine property cleanup activities. The Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) issues authorizations for these initial land clearing operations. An EPC open burn application along with a fee of \$300-must be submitted to EPC for review and a site inspection is performed prior to issuing an authorization. Please contact the Air Division for information on the requirements for obtaining an EPC open burn authorization.

## Recreational Open Burning

Recreational open burning is allowed if it is in compliance with the EPC Act and Chapter 1-4 Open Burn Rule. Open burning for bonfires, ceremonial, or religious type events is regulated by the appropriate jurisdiction's Fire Marshall. Before proceeding with this type of activity an open burn authorization may require a written authorization from the municipality. Please contact the Fire Department in the municipality where the event will be held. For more information please contact the appropriate authority from the list below:

Hillsborough County Fire Rescue: 813-272-6600  
City of Tampa Fire Rescue: 813-274-7011  
Temple Terrace Fire Rescue: 813-506-6700  
Plant City Fire Rescue: 813-757-9131

## **Allowed Open Burning (no written EPC Authorization required)**

### Food Preparation

Open burning for the purpose of outdoor non-commercial food preparation, which is conducted in a non-flammable container.

### Warmth

Open burning that allows residents to have a small fire to provide warmth for themselves during the cooler weather. However, the open burning must be in a non-flammable container. The moisture content of the fuel source must be low so that good clean burning is favorable and minimal smoke is produced. The fire should not be left unattended and it should be kept to an easily manageable size. Commercially sold open burn containers for residential use typically do not exceed 36 inches, and if constructing a self made container its size should be limited to 36 inches. Only natural logs, clean wood (no treated, coated, stained, or glued wood), charcoal or other accepted wood substitutes such as manufactured fire logs may be burned. **ALL OTHER MATERIAL IS PROHIBITED.**

## Compliance Monitoring

The EPC investigates all open burning complaints. If violations of the regulations are noted on residential property, EPC staff will seek immediate correction from the property owner or lessee. If you believe illegal open burning is occurring, a complaint can be filed online or by a phone call to EPC. To file a complaint online go to <http://www.epchc.org/> and select Report A Concern and complete the complaint form with as much detail as possible. You can also report a complaint by calling our office at 813-627-2600 and speaking to staff in the Air Division. When filing a complaint you may choose to remain anonymous.

## **Hillsborough County Fire Rescue Non-Emergency**

813-681-9927

## **Hillsborough County Sheriff Office Non-Emergency**

813-247-8200

