

Scroll down/advance pages for the Outdoor Burning Ordinance

CONTACT NUMBERS

Yard Debris (leaves, tree trimmings)

Prior to general debris burning in areas outside of cities and towns in Lexington County, read Lexington County's rules and regulations and notify the SC Forestry Commission by calling 1-800-705-8613.

Land Clearing (large clearing, mechanical clearing)

Prior to burning for large clearings and mechanical clearings please contact Lexington County Fire Services at (803) 785-8141.

Forestry/Wildlife/Agriculture Burning

Prior to burning for forestry, wildlife or agricultural purposes, read Lexington County's rules and regulations and notify the SC Forestry Commission by calling 1-800-688-3823.

General/Emergency

To report a wildfire, call 9-1-1 and the Forestry Commission at 1-800-777-FIRE (same as 1-800-777-3473).

For general questions about outdoor debris burning, please contact Lexington County Fire Services at (803) 785-8141.

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OUTDOOR BURNING

Sec. 30-106. Penalty for violation of article.

Any person who violates any of the provisions of this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine or imprisonment in accordance with section 1-8.

Sec. 30-107. Compliance with article provisions.

No person shall kindle or maintain any open burning or authorize any such fire to be kindled or maintained within the unincorporated areas of the county, except as stated in this article.

Sec. 30-108. Location of residential yard debris burning.

Open burning of leaves, tree branches or yard trimmings on the premises of private residences and burned on those premises, must be located not less than 75 feet from any structure and not less than 75 feet from the property line and adequate provision is made to prevent the fire from spreading within 75 feet of any structure. Open burning for the purpose of land clearing or right-of-way maintenance must be conducted in accordance with the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) Air Quality Regulations 61-62.2 and 61-62.4 and S.C. Code 1976, § 48-35-10 et seq

Sec. 30-109. Attendant and fire extinguishing equipment required; notice to state forester; adherence to state law.

The burning must be constantly attended by a competent person until such fire is extinguished. Such person shall have a garden hose connected to a water supply, or other fire extinguishing equipment readily available for use. Proper notification shall be given to the state forester or his duly authorized representative or other persons designated by the state forester. The notice shall contain all information required by the state forester or his representative. The burning must be conducted in accordance with related state laws and regulations including, but not limited to, DHEC Air Quality Regulations 61-62.2 and 61-62.4 and S.C. Code 1976, § 48-35-10 et seq.

Sec. 30-110. Fires shall be prohibited as follows.

- a. The county fire service coordinator may prohibit open burning when atmospheric conditions, local circumstances or other conditions exist that would make such fires hazardous.
- b. The following materials shall not be burned in an open fire. Asphalt and asphaltic materials, paint, plastics, metals, treated wood, paper, petroleum products, demolition debris, dead animals, construction debris, household chemicals, household garbage, tires, trade waste and cardboard.
- c. Open burning for the purpose of land clearing and right-of-way maintenance. Except as specified by DHEC Air Quality Regulations 61-62.2 and 61-62.4

- d. Open burning for the purpose of land clearing, and right-of-way maintenance shall be prohibited during the ozone season (April 1 through October 30)

Sec. 30-111. Criteria for determining hazards.

Reasonable criteria shall be established by the county council to assist in determining when outdoor fires may be hazardous. This criteria may include air quality standards as well as various fire danger indexes.

Sec. 30-112. Prohibited on county roads, drainage rights-of-way and adjacent areas.

Open burning shall be prohibited on all county roads and drainage rights-of-way, or within an area that may cause damage to such areas.

Sec. 30-113. Exemptions.

- (a) This article does not apply to vegetative debris burning related to forestry, wildlife and agricultural burns, as authorized by the state forestry commission.
- (b) This article is not meant to restrict open burning in the connection with the preparation of food for immediate consumption, or campfires and fires used solely for recreational purposes, ceremonial occasions or human warmth that are done in a safe manner.
- (c) Fires set for the purpose of training public fire-fighting personnel when authorized by the appropriate governmental entity, and fires set by a private industry as a part of an organized program of drills for the training of fire-fighting personnel. These will be exempt only if the drills are solely for the purposes of fire-fighting training and the duration of the burning is held to the minimum required for such purposes. Prior approval by DHEC is required only for sites which are not established training sites.

Sec. 30-114. Restrictions; exceptions.

Smoke production must be ended and no combustible material may be added to the fire between official sunset of one day and official sunrise of the following day with the exception of fires in the connection with the preparation of food for immediate consumption, or campfires and fires used solely for recreational purposes, ceremonial occasions, or human warmth and fires where time parameters are already regulated by the Department of Environmental Control Regulation 61-62.2.

Sec. 30-115. Hazardous or toxic materials.

Hazardous or toxic materials shall not be burned.

Sec. 30-116. Civil and criminal liability.

The authorization to conduct an open burn does not relieve the individual responsible from civil or criminal liabilities resulting from the burning.

Sec. 30-117. Conflicts of article with state law.

The provision of this article shall prevail and be controlling over provisions of state law if such is allowed by state law. Otherwise, if any conflict arises between the provisions of this article and any state law, the provisions of state law shall prevail and be controlling.