



Cherokee County Commercial Burn Regulations

General Requirements

- All burning operations shall comply with the “Rules for Air Quality Control” chapter 391-3-1 as written and amended by the Environmental Protection Division and these standards.
- No open burning will be authorized when the weather conditions (wind, humidity, temperature, overcast, etc.) may jeopardize the safety of life and property as determined by the issuing officer.
- Except for a reasonable period to get the fire started, the smoke opacity equal to or greater than 40 percent shall not be emitted from any pit fire.
- The Cherokee County Fire Department may revoke permit if conditions or permit conditions require such.

Step 1 – Site Selection and Preparation

- Select a site which will likely have a low water table, can be easily excavated, and will be at least 300 feet from any structure.
- Only one pit is allowed to be burning within a 9-acre area at any time and there must be at least 1000 feet between each pit.

Step 2 – Pit Preparation

Excavate the pit using either a front-end loader or a backhoe.

Pit Dimensions:

- 8 feet wide by 12 to 15 feet deep by 15 to 30 feet long. The pit **MUST** be excavated with at least 3 vertical sides in soil capable of maintaining vertical walls of 15 feet in depth without failure. Additional support may be necessary.

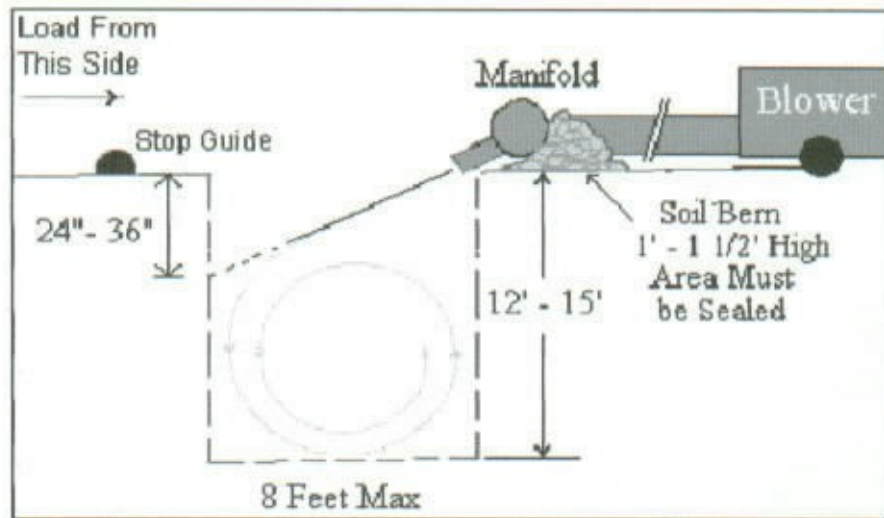
- Note 1: The length is dependent upon the length of the air curtain destructor manifold.
- Note 2: Caution must be exercised to ensure that the walls are not undercut during excavation. If a front-end loader is used for excavation, the end used for travel must be filled in with dirt beginning at the end of the manifold and filling up the ramp.

Page 1 of 4

Step 3 – Air Curtain Destructor Setup

- Using a small berm of soil (1 to 1 ½ feet high), place the manifold plenum and nozzles such that the manifold is properly supported and the space between the manifold and the ground is sealed. Rotate the manifold until the air curtain will be directed towards an imaginary horizontal line 24 to 36 inches below the top of the opposite wall. Slide the skid containing the blower and motor into place and connect the manifold.

Burn Pit Setup



Step 4 – Ignition Procedure

- Load the pit half full with a homogeneous mixture of trees, logs, and large brush. Douse the wood with ½ gallon of fuel oil or kerosene. The majority of the fuel oil or kerosene should be put on the wood at the front center side of the pit. Allow sufficient time for the fire to take hold before introducing any air from the air curtain destructor. As the fire grows in intensity, gradually bring the blower up to optimum speed (generally 1,100 and 1,400 RPM).

Page 2 of 5

- Caution: Do Not Use Tires or Highly Volatile Solvents Such as Gasoline or Mineral Spirits Etc. for Ignition.
- Note 1: Only wood waste consisting of trees, logs, large brush, or stumps relatively free of soil may be burned.
- Note 2: LUMBER, LEAVES, SAWDUST, PAPER OF ANY TYPE, OR CHEMICALLY TREATED , COATED , OR IMPREGNATED WOOD CANNOT BE BURNED.

Step 5 – Loading Procedures

- Once the fire reaches full intensity, successive intermittent charging may begin. The intervals between charges may be determined by observing the burning rate. Generally, if the fire is kept at its maximum intensity, it will keep 1 man operating a front-end loader constantly busy. Also, the material should be charged toward the rear of the pit under the air curtain. The pit should not be overloaded. That is, the material should not be piled so high that it protrudes above the air curtain. No material should extend outside the boundaries of the pit and the air curtain.

Step 6 – Closing the Pit

- The pit shall be completely extinguished by 6:00 PM by applying water or covering completely with soil.

Step 7 – Maintenance and Safety Requirements

- Ash removal is required in order to maintain efficient and proper combustion. Ashes should not be allowed to build up higher than 1/3 the pit depth, or below the point where they begin to impede combustion and are blown out of the pit. If spalling or “cave off” of the pit walls occurs during operations, a new pit must be constructed and the existing pit filled with soil.
- Note: Each new pit will require an inspection by the Fire Marshal’s Office. Any accumulation of water in the pit must be removed prior to beginning operations.
- Safety: It is recommended that a fence or barrier be erected around the pit to protect the public. A “stop guide” or restraint MUST be provided at the loading side of the pit in order to keep the loader from getting too close to the edge of the pit during charging operations.

Step 8 – Inspection

- To schedule a pit inspection call the Cherokee County Fire Marshal's Office Between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM at: 678-493-6290

All pits MUST PASS inspection in order to obtain a permit!!

Step 9 – Permit

After passing inspection call 678-493-6290 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM to obtain your permit.

Enforcement

The Office of the Cherokee County Fire Marshal is responsible for the enforcement of the above regulations and is authorized to issue citations for any and all violations.

Caution!

Georgia Law: O.C.G.A. 16-7-28.

(a) It shall be unlawful:

- (1) To start, cause, or procure another to start a fire in any woodlands, brush, field, or any other lands not one's own or leased and without the permission of the owner;
 - (2) To burn any brush, field, forest land, campfire, or debris, whether on one's own land or the lands of another, without taking the necessary precautions before, during, and after the fire to prevent the escape of such fire onto the lands of another. The escape of such fire shall be prima-facie evidence that necessary precautions were not taken;
 - (3) For any person to cause a fire by discarding any lighted cigarette, cigar, debris, or any other flaming or smoldering material that may cause a forest fire; or
 - (4) To destroy or damage any material or device used in the detection or suppression of wildfires.
- (b) This Code section shall not apply to fire resulting from the operation of transportation machinery or equipment used in its normal or accustomed manner.

(c) Any person who violates subsection (a) of this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.