Champaign County, Illinois
Restrictions on the Open Burning of Landscape Waste

Open burning of landscape waste is generally prohibited in the Prohibited Burn Area (PBA) (shown on the map on pages 2 and 3), and restricted in non-PBA areas of unincorporated Champaign County, by the Champaign County Public Nuisance Ordinance. This handout provides a summary of regulations: citizens are referred to the Champaign County Public Nuisance Ordinance for full details.

OPEN BURNING: The combustion of any matter in such a way that the products of combustion are emitted to open air without originating in or passing through equipment for which a permit could be issued by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

LANDSCAPE WASTE: Any vegetable or plant refuse except food and food product garbage and agricultural waste. The term includes trees, tree trimmings, branches, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery, and yard trimmings.

LANDSCAPE WASTE, WOODY: Landscape waste that is limited to trees, tree trimmings, branches, stumps, and shrubbery branches and stems. No leaves are allowed.

LANDSCAPE WASTE COLLECTION ALTERNATIVE: Any alternative for the removal of landscape waste from properties within a PBA other than that of an individual owner paying a fee to drop off landscape waste at the Landscape Recycling Center at 1210 East University Avenue, Urbana, or paying a service provider or contractor to collect the landscape waste from the property on which the landscape waste was generated.

Is open burning of landscape waste prohibited?

The open burning of landscape waste is generally prohibited in the PBA. The open burning of woody landscape waste is allowed under certain conditions in those parts of the PBA located in Urbana, Somer, and Hensley Townships, as these areas do not currently have a landscape waste collection alternative.

When and how can residents, businesses, industries, farmers, and institutions in non-PBA areas of unincorporated Champaign County burn their landscape waste?

1. If the burning complies with the requirements of the relevant FPD, including as the setting of fires to combat or limit existing fires, when reasonably necessary in the judgment of the relevant FPD.

2. If the burning is on a site provided and supervised by any local unit of government.

3. If the burning is of agricultural waste and conforms to the requirements of the Illinois Pollution Control Board and the IEPA, as established in Title 35 Illinois Administrative Code, Part 237.

4. If the burning is specifically permitted by the IEPA, the Illinois Pollution Control Board and IEPA rules regarding open burning as established in Title 35 Illinois Administrative Code, Part 237, and in conformance with any special conditions imposed by the IEPA, and a copy of the permit and any special conditions has been provided to the zoning administrator; or is supervised by a unit of local government.

5. If the burning occurs on the same premises where the waste was generated.

6. If the burning is NOT on a public or private road, right-of-way, alley, or sidewalk, unless there is specific approval given by the relevant highway authority.

7. If the burning does not create a visibility hazard on roadways, railroad tracks, or airfields.

8. If the burning will not create a hazard to safety for people or property as a result of sustained wind speed being greater than 10 miles per hour, and/or there being unusually dry weather conditions, subject to a determination by the relevant FPD.

When can woody landscape waste be burned in the PBA?

Woody landscape waste can only be burned in areas of the PBA that are within Somer, Urbana, and Hensley Townships.

1. If the burning complies with conditions 1-8, above.

2. If the burning is supervised with a responsible adult present at the site with a method of extinguishing the fire, such as a shovel and a connected water hose or fire extinguisher.

3. If atmospheric conditions will readily dissipate contaminants, including the following conditions: