

Brush pile burning must be done properly to ensure it is safe, the fire is contained, the smoke doesn't cause a nuisance to nearby residents, and the public and fire officials are properly notified. Volunteers are required to follow the policies and procedures outlined below and complete the checklist prior to burning piles on county lands. All sections that apply to the project must have boxes checked before burning can take place.

## *Brush Pile Burning Policies and Procedures Checklist*

**Location-specific steps:** *(if your project is located in one the areas below, complete these steps before proceeding)*

- If in NW Dane County:** The DNR places further restrictions on lands in the DNR Protection Area, which includes most of northwest Dane County including the townships Roxbury, Mazomanie, Berry, Black Earth, Vermont, and the northern tier of sections in Blue Mounds. From January 1 - May 31, if the ground is not completely covered in snow and at other times when the DNR so orders, you must have an annual burn permit. Permits expire annually and require renewal from year to year. Obtain a free annual permit online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestFire/permits.html> or call the hotline at 1-888-WIS-BURN (947-2876). On the day of the burn after 11am, check the daily burning restrictions or call the hotline to get final approval.
- If in the City of Madison city limits:** written General Burning Permit required and \$50 fee submitted at least 30 days before planned activities. Details are found on the City of Madison FD permits webpage: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/fire/permits-inspections/licenses-permits/licenses-permits-applications>

**In advance of burning, ALL PROJECTS must notify:**

- Dane County Non-emergency Duty Supervisor (608-267-3913)
- Local Fire Department: See Appendix 7 of handbook to find your local Fire Department contact information.

*Unless otherwise stated, Dane County Parks does not need to be notified prior to pile burning, but natural areas staff should be aware of your efforts and objectives on park lands.*

**In advance of burning, ALL PROJECTS must meet the following conditions:**

- Winds are below 20 mph
- Wind direction blowing smoke away from people, signs, structures, and roads.
- Temperatures are below 75 degrees
- DNR Fire Danger Rating is Low or Moderate. Visit the DNR burning restrictions webpage to check the Fire Danger Rating: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestfire/restrictions.html>
- No air quality notices are in place for Dane County. Visit this DNR webpage to confirm air quality conditions: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/airquality/status.asp>
- Brush pile will be located in an area where heat will not cause damage to desirable vegetation or other important natural resources.

**Additional condition-specific steps:** *(complete if these apply to your project)*

- If temps above 40 degrees:** you must have a minimum of five gallons of water available on site in case of escape.
- If temps below 40 degrees:** suppression tools such as shovels, flappers, and/or rakes available in lieu of water.
- If Spring (March/April):** ground must be completely covered in snow.