

Is burning allowed?

Both the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Bureau of Air (BOA) and your local authority must approve your open burning operation. Read more below.

Is open burning allowed by the KDHE BOA?

- **YES**, if you are a resident burning residential household wastes, trees/brush, or yard waste, **and your local jurisdiction approves**. Burning is allowed as long as the premises contains five or fewer dwelling units.
- **YES**, if you are burning for cooking or ceremonial purposes on public or private land regularly used for recreation.
- **YES**, if you are burning for agricultural purposes (crop, range, pasture, wildlife, or watershed management). You must meet the following conditions:
 - Local fire control authority has been notified (if required).
 - Burning will not create a traffic or airport safety hazard.
 - The person conducting the burn will ensure burning is supervised until fire is extinguished.
- **NO**, not if you are a business. Any open burning done by businesses must receive KDHE and local approval, including burning trees and brush.
- **NO**, not if you are burning for a reason besides those listed above. You may only burn if you have received written approval from the KDHE secretary.

General guidelines during all burn events

- Avoid cloudy or low cloud cover days.
- Burn during daylight hours; don't add material two hours prior to sunset.
- Wind speeds should be between 5 to 15 mph.
- Do not create a traffic hazard with burning.
- Supervise your fire until it's out.
- Notify houses and businesses within 1,000 ft. of a permitted burn.

Need more information?

Contact your local KDHE district office or the Kansas Small Business Environmental Assistance Program at 800-578-8898 or sbeap@ksu.edu. Resources are available at www.sbeap.org/services-programs/open-burning or www.ksfire.org.

Frequently asked questions

Q: What are some alternatives to burning?

A: Landfill, bury on site (with permission from KDHE Bureau of Waste Management; 785-296-1600), composting, or donating/recycling material.

Q: I'm a "resident," so what can I burn?

A: You can burn normal household trash if it was generated on site. Materials from renovations, construction, or demolition cannot be burned.

Q: Who is affected by the April burn ban?

A: Thirteen counties in the Flint Hills region (and Johnson, Sedgwick, and Wyandotte counties) are impacted. You can learn more at the resources listed to the left. Those burning for agricultural purposes are asked to plan burning operations using the smoke modeling tool at www.ksfire.org.



This is a publication of the Kansas Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP). Paid for by KDHE.

