



Commercial Burn Permit Application Requirements

To be considered for a Commercial Burn Permit, the applicant must submit a complete application package that includes all items listed below. Incomplete applications will not be processed.

Site Plan Drawings

1. Submitted drawings must clearly indicate the following:

- a. Property boundaries and access points
- b. Location of above ground utilities
- c. Location(s) and maximum size of each proposed burn pile
- d. Minimum required clearances, including:
 - i. At least 300 ft from structures with sensitive receptors (or completed Sensitive Receptors Approval Form)
 - ii. At least 50 ft from combustibile structures and overhead utility lines
 - iii. Staging areas, equipment locations, and traffic control (if applicable)
- e. Designated access routes for emergency response
- f. Hazard identifications
 - i. Pits, trenches, Creek beds
 - ii. The type and locations of barriers, fences, or signage to be used
 - iii. Hazardous Materials

Water Supply and Fire Control Plan

1. Provide a written description of:

- a. On-site water sources, such as:
 - i. Tenders or tankers (include capacity and refill plan)
 - ii. Hydrants (include distance from burn site)
 - iii. Natural or stored water (ponds, tanks, etc.)
 - iv. Firefighting equipment available on-site (e.g., hoses, pumpers, hand tools)

2. Fire Control and Extinguishment Methods

- a. Provide a detailed plan describing:
 - i. Weather monitoring plan
 - ii. Methods for ignition
 - iii. Continuous on-site supervision by qualified personnel
 - iv. Equipment and procedures to control flame spread
 - v. Methods and timeline for full extinguishment of each pile
 - vi. Uncontrolled Fire Response Plan

3. Smoke and Nuisance Control Plan

- a. Measures to prevent smoke from crossing roadways (e.g., flag-persons, monitoring)
- b. Methods to minimize smoke impact to nearby properties and residences
- c. Procedures for extinguishing smoldering piles at the end of each burn day
- d. Contingency plans for changing weather conditions, such as temperature inversions or shifts in wind direction

Minimum Road Requirements

For the purposes of commercial burning operations, all access routes intended for use by wildland firefighting vehicles must meet the following minimum requirements. These roads do not need to meet full Fire Apparatus Access Road (FAAR) specifications, but must be capable of supporting fire suppression vehicles commonly used in off-road and wildland response conditions. Where perimeter access and firebreaks are required, continuity of road(s) shall form an uninterrupted path or loop around the burn area or property boundary.

1. Minimum Clear Width:

- a. Roads shall have a minimum clear travel width of 12 feet, free of obstructions such as fencing, debris, or overgrown vegetation.
- b. Overhead Clearance: A vertical clearance of at least 14 feet must be maintained along the entire length of the access route.
- c. Surface Conditions: Roads must be stable enough to support the weight of a typical wildland brush truck (approx. 15,000–26,000 lbs GVWR).
- d. Roads shall be free of deep ruts, mud holes, or soft sand that would impede access.

2. Turnarounds:

- a. Where access roads are greater than 100 feet off roadway, AND the roads do not provide a looped path, OR where roads dead end due to natural or man-made barriers, turnarounds shall be provided. Additional turnarounds may be required at the discretion of the Fire Code Official.
- b. Radius of curves should accommodate a minimum turning radius of 30 feet, suitable for smaller Type 3–6 wildland engines.
- c. Slope and Grade: Longitudinal grades should not exceed 20%. Grades over 10% must have surface material that provides adequate traction and may be subject to additional review.

3. Access to Burn Piles:

- a. Access roads must provide direct approach within 50 feet of each burn pile.
- b. A turnaround or staging area shall be provided near each burn area to allow for fire truck positioning and maneuvering.

4. Maintenance During Burn Operations:

- a. Access roads must remain clear, passable, and maintained throughout the duration of the permitted burn activity.
- b.

Perimeter Access and Firebreak Requirement

when the presence of vegetation, brush, or trees may present a risk of fire spread beyond the permitted site. The permit holder shall ensure that an accessible perimeter road or firebreak is established and maintained around the boundaries of the property or designated burn area. The perimeter road or firebreak must meet the minimum road requirements as described in this document.

1. **Minimum clear width:** 12 feet
2. **Clearance:** Area must be free of combustible vegetation, debris, or obstructions that could support fire spread

3. **Access:** Must remain passable at all times during active burning and until all smoldering has ceased

This perimeter access road serves as a defensive firebreak and ensures that firefighting personnel can quickly access any side of the burn area to control or contain an unintended fire spread.

Combustible Material Around Piles

As a condition of this Commercial Burn Permit, the permit holder is required to clear all combustible materials down to mineral soil within a minimum radius of 25 feet beyond the outer edge of each burn pile. This firebreak must:

1. Be free of vegetation, grass, brush, wood debris, and any other combustible material
2. Extend uniformly around the entire perimeter of the burn pile
3. Be maintained for the duration of the burn operation, including during smoldering and extinguishment phases

The purpose of this requirement is to establish a continuous firebreak that limits the risk of fire escape and ensures a controllable burn zone.

Hazard Control Guidelines for Commercial Burn Sites

Applies to open holes, trenches, pits, excavations, and similar hazards

To ensure the safety of fire department personnel and others working on or responding to burn operations, the following minimum protective measures are required around any hole, trench, pit, or excavation that poses a fall hazard of 24 inches or greater:

1. **Barrier or Fencing Requirements**

- a. **Minimum Height:** Barriers shall be at least 42 inches in height.
- b. **Materials:** Barriers may be constructed of temporary fencing, safety railing, or high-visibility construction fencing supported by posts at intervals of no more than 8 feet.
- c. **Strength:** Barriers must be capable of resisting at least 200 lbs of lateral force (per OSHA general industry guidelines).
- d. **Visibility:** All fencing shall be highly visible, using orange or yellow mesh, flagging, or reflective tape as needed for low-light conditions.

2. **Signage Requirements in Lieu of Fencing**

At the discretion of the Fire Code Official, Where fencing or physical barriers are not practical due to terrain or site conditions, warning signs may be used as an alternative to mark open holes, pits, trenches, or other fall hazards. In such cases, the following requirements shall apply:

- a. Signs must be constructed of durable, weather-resistant materials and shall be reflective to ensure visibility in low-light or nighttime conditions.
- b. Each sign shall be a minimum of 24 inches by 24 inches, or comparable in size and visibility to standard roadway hazard signs as defined by the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (TMUTCD).
- c. The wording shall clearly indicate the nature of the hazard, using phrases such as "DANGER – OPEN PIT," "FALL HAZARD," or other approved warnings.

- d. Signs shall be posted at regular intervals around the hazard perimeter and placed at a height that ensures unobstructed visibility to approaching personnel (typically 4 to 5 feet above grade).
 - e. The number and placement of signs shall be sufficient to provide clear warning from all accessible approaches.
 - f. When trenches or pits are near burn operations, detour signage or barriers must guide personnel safely around them.
- 3. Accountability: It is the responsibility of the permit holder to:**
- a. Identify and secure all fall hazards on the burn site.
 - b. Maintain barriers throughout the duration of the permitted activity.
 - c. Ensure that barriers are checked and repaired daily during multi-day burns.
- 4. Hazardous Materials**
- a. Flammable and Combustible liquids, compressed gases, combustible construction materials, waste containers/dumpsters, power generators shall be stored a minimum of 100 feet away from any burn pile
 - b. Explosives, reactive materials, agricultural chemicals shall be stored a minimum of 300 feet away from any burn pile

Worker Awareness and Training Requirement

All personnel present at a work site operating under an active Commercial Burn Permit must be fully aware of, and understand, all requirements outlined in the burn permit conditions and associated safety plans. It is the sole responsibility of the permit holder to ensure that:

- 1. All workers, contractors, and site personnel involved in or near the burn operation have been properly trained on the specific conditions of the permit.
- 2. Workers are notified of all relevant safety procedures, including but not limited to:
 - a. Burn pile locations and clearances
 - b. Emergency response plans
 - c. Smoke management protocols
 - d. Fall hazard and site access precautions
 - e. Fire control and extinguishment methods
- 3. Documentation of this training or briefing should be maintained and made available upon request by the Fire Marshal's Office or other authority having jurisdiction.

Failure to ensure worker awareness and compliance may result in suspension or revocation of the burn permit and could lead to enforcement action.

Burning Within 300 feet of an Adjacent Structure

In accordance with Texas Administrative Code 30 TAC Chapter 111, Subchapter B and the 2021 International Fire Code, open burning must be conducted downwind of or at least 300 feet from any structure containing sensitive receptors located on adjacent properties.

If the proposed burn location is less than 300 feet from an occupied structure on an adjacent property, a [Sensitive Receptors Approval Form](#) must be completed and submitted with the burn permit application. (The form can be found on our website www.bryantx.gov/fire)

This form must be signed by the occupant with possessory control of the adjacent property—that is, the person(s) who resides in, or actively occupies the structure. This may include the property owner(s), tenant(s), or other authorized individual(s). Burning is prohibited unless the documentation indicates the approval from the adjacent occupant.

Additionally, the adjacent occupant who provides approval reserves the right to rescind their consent at any time. If written approval is rescinded, the burn authorization may be modified, suspended, or revoked at the discretion of the Fire Marshal's Office. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to remain in communication with affected neighbors and to notify the Fire Marshal's Office of any changes to previously granted approvals.

Failure to provide or maintain valid written approval will result in denial, suspension, or revocation of the burn permit.