

## Did You Know?

- Escaped debris burning is one of the leading causes of wildfires in Florida.
- The Florida Forest Service administers Florida's outdoor burning and forest fire laws.
- Some types of burning require an authorization from the Florida Forest Service while others do not.
- Burning yard waste does not require an authorization but you must follow the rules for your area.

## Burning Authorization Required

Agricultural, silvicultural, landclearing, pile and acreage burning all require a burning authorization from the Florida Forest Service.

## Burning Authorization NOT Required

Authorization is not required to burn yard waste as long as you meet the required setbacks and there are no local, city or county ordinances in place that prohibit burning.

Check with your local, city and county officials to find out if there are any restrictions in your area.

## What is Yard Waste?

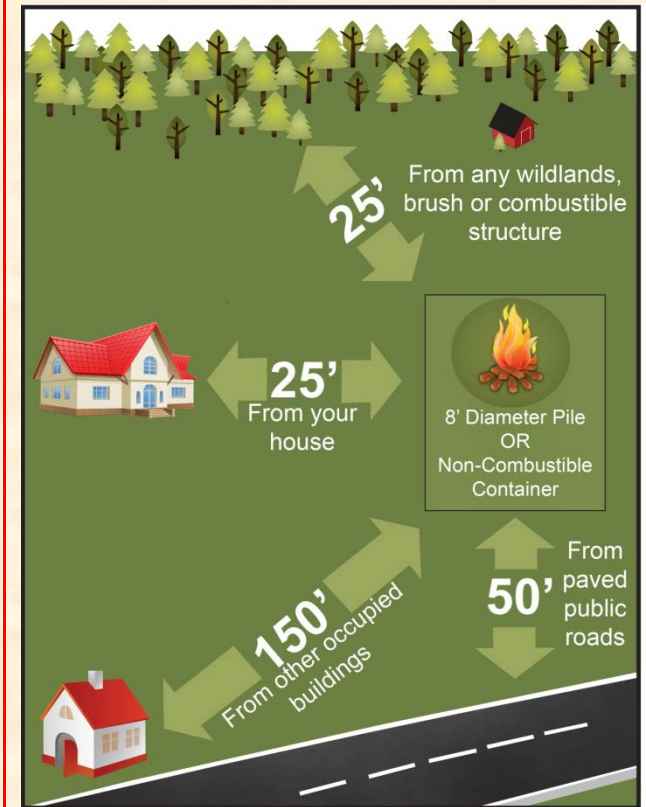
Yard waste is vegetative debris such as grass clippings, brush, leaves, tree limbs, palm fronds, etc., that are a result of yard maintenance.

You may burn yard waste as long as:

- *you meet the required setbacks and no local, city or county ordinances prohibit burning,*
- *the yard waste was generated on your property and it will fit in an 8-foot diameter pile or non-combustible container,*
- *fire is ignited after 8:00 a.m. central time or 9:00 a.m. eastern time and is extinguished one hour before sunset,*
- *smoke is not a hazard or nuisance.*

***NOTE: Piles greater than 8 feet in diameter will require an authorization from the Florida Forest Service, must have suppression equipment on hand, and need to meet additional setback requirements.***

It is illegal to burn household garbage (including paper products), treated lumber, plastics, rubber materials, tires, pesticides, paint, and aerosol containers.



Clear an area down to bare soil around your pile to prevent the fire from spreading.

Cover a non-combustible container with wire mesh to keep sparks from flying out and starting new fires.

If you have questions on outdoor burning, please contact your local Florida Forest Service office or visit: [www.FloridaForestService.com](http://www.FloridaForestService.com)

# Outdoor Burning TIPS

- Check with your local Florida Forest Service office to make sure it is legal to burn in your area.
- Make sure you meet the required setbacks.
- Burn only yard waste, no household garbage (includes paper products and newspapers).
- Don't burn on windy days.
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Keep a water hose or shovel handy in case your fire escapes.
- Make sure smoke does not obstruct visibility on nearby roads.
- Be sure fire is completely out before you leave.

## - REMEMBER -

**If your fire escapes, you may be liable for costs of suppression and damage to the property of others.**

## FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE FIELD HEADQUARTERS BY COUNTIES

**Blackwater Forestry Center** (850) 957-6140  
Escambia • Okaloosa • Santa Rosa

**Chipola River Forestry Center** (850) 547-7083  
Bay • Calhoun • Gulf • Holmes • Jackson • Walton  
• Washington

**Tallahassee Forestry Center** (850) 488-1871  
Franklin • Gadsden • Jefferson • Liberty • Leon •  
Wakulla

**Perry Forestry District** (850) 838-2299  
Dixie • Lafayette • Madison • Taylor

**Suwannee Forestry Center** (386) 758-5700  
Baker • Bradford • Columbia • Hamilton • Suwannee  
• Union

**Jacksonville Forestry District** (904) 266-5001  
Clay • Duval • Nassau

**Waccasassa Forestry Center** (352) 955-2010  
Alachua • Gilchrist • Levy • Marion • Putnam

**Bunnell Forestry District** (386) 446-6785  
Flagler • St. Johns • Volusia

**Withlacoochee Forestry Center** (352) 754-6777  
Citrus • Hernando • Lake • Pasco • Sumter

**Orlando Forestry District** (407) 856-6512  
Brevard • Orange • Osceola • Seminole

**Lakeland Forestry District** (863) 648-3163  
Hillsborough • Pinellas • Polk

**Myakka River Forestry District** (941) 751-7627  
Charlotte • DeSoto • Hardee • Manatee • Sarasota

**Okeechobee Forestry District** (863) 462-5160  
Glades • Highlands • Indian River • Martin  
• Okeechobee • St. Lucie

**Caloosahatchee Forestry Center** (239) 690-3500  
Collier • Hendry • Lee

**Everglades Forestry District** (954) 475-4120  
Broward • Miami-Dade • Monroe • Palm Beach



FOREST FIRE LAWS & OPEN BURNING REGULATIONS  
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# Know the Law

Before  
You Strike  
a Match  
in Florida



Florida Department of  
Agriculture and Consumer Services

Adam H. Putnam, Commissioner