

Crystal Lakes Fire Protection District Burn Permit Policy

Property owners in the Crystal Lakes Fire Protection District wishing to burn slash on their properties must meet the following requirements:

- Properties on which slash is to be burned must be 8 or more acres in size.
- Property owners must apply for a burn permit through the Larimer County Open Burn Permitting process (www.larimer.org/burnpermit/), which allows burning **only between October 1 and May 1**. An inspection of the piles to be burned will be made at the time the application is received by the fire district to verify that the following requirements have been met:
 - Piles are no larger than 5 feet wide and 5 feet high.
 - Piles are composed of slash only – branches no larger than 4” in diameter – no stumps, trunks, construction debris, household garbage or any other materials may be included.
 - Piles are at least ten feet from adjacent tree trunks, and that tree branches do not hang over the piles.
 - Piles are at least fifty feet from any adjacent structure.
 - Piles are at least seventy-five feet from lot lines (exception: piles may be within seventy-five feet of the road).
- The inspector will also be looking at the topography of the lot in proximity to the slash piles, to verify piles are not in locations that can cause dangerous fire conditions (on or at the foot of steep slopes, in notches, saddles or narrow canyons, etc).
- The property owner must be on the property at the time of inspection and be prepared to answer the inspector’s questions regarding the location and construction of the piles.

Once the Larimer County Open Burn permit has been approved, property owners may use that permit to burn slash piles **between October 1 and May 1** as follows:

- Permit holders must contact the fire district immediately prior to the day they propose to burn to request reinspection of their slash piles to verify that they still meet the county requirements as laid out above.
- Permit holders must contact the fire district the day of the proposed burn to obtain permission to start their burn. Permission will be granted only if proper conditions exist for a safe burn. These conditions are:
 - At least eight inches of snow on the ground within a 50-foot radius of the piles to be burned, with an area-wide base of at least three inches.
 - Current and forecast winds no greater than 10 miles per hour.
- Permit holders must ensure that the road to the property and a route to the burn site has been cleared of snow sufficiently to allow access for emergency vehicles.
- Permit holders may not start any burn after 10 am and all fires must be extinguished by nightfall. Members of the fire department may check to verify that fires have been extinguished before dark.
- A competent and non-impaired person must attend the burn at all times, equipped with a means to call for assistance, water, a shovel and a rake. If multiple piles are being burned and piles are too far apart to permit one person to view all piles at all times, additional people must be present to attend the fires. No more than four piles may be burned in one day. Spot-checks may be performed by members of the fire department to verify that fires are attended at all times. If a fire is found unattended, the fire department will immediately extinguish it.

If checks by the fire department find a burn being conducted in an inappropriate manner (not extinguished by dark, not attended at all times, improper materials added to the burn, etc), the property owner's burn permit will be revoked for the season, no burn permits will be approved for that property for the following year, and the property owner will be turned over to Larimer County for violation of the Open Burn policy. Violation of the Larimer County Open Burn policy can result in fines of up to \$10,000 per day. **Property owners assume all responsibility and liability for any consequences, intended or otherwise, of their burn.**

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