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## Press Release

**From and Authorized By: Division of Forestry**

**Contact: Maggie Rogers (907) 356-5511**

**Release Date: August 31, 2010**

### **DOF Burn Permits are Required Seasonally but Responsibility is Year-round!**

As of Wednesday, September 1, burn permits from the Alaska Division of Forestry will no longer be required for debris burning for the 2010 season. The permits are required seasonally from April 1- August 31; however, State laws and regulations that pertain to safe burning practices apply year-round.

If you plan to burn debris in barrels or in open fires, first clear the surrounding fuels out of the area, keep water on hand, and do not let fires go unattended. Burn barrel specifications are listed at: <http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>. See the second page of this release for more information about safe burning practices.

It is safer to burn in the fall than in spring when wildland fire season is approaching. Take advantage of the remaining summer/early autumn months to implement Firewise practices, including major land clearing operations. Firewise guidelines are online at: <http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/firewise09.pdf> or brochures are available at your local Forestry office. Be sure to properly dispose of leaves, grass and other vegetation.

Thank you for using caution with all activities that could result in a wildland fire while you enjoy your time outdoors in Alaska.

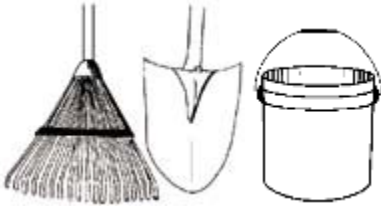
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**Practice Safe Burning! – See Next Page**

# Safe Burning Practices

## Tools

The basic equipment you need to have on hand before you start burning is:



### **For burns of less than 1 acre of mowed grass (lawn)**

- Mown lawn, blades less than 4 inches in length
- Garden hose capable of reaching entire perimeter
- Burlap bags to wet and control fire
- A minimum of 3 adult persons to monitor fire until it is completely out

### **For a 10 x 10 burn pile**

- Rake
- Shovel
- Garden hose or sufficient water to extinguish the pile
- A minimum of 1 adult person to monitor fire until it is completely out

## Fire Breaks

### **For burns of less than 1 acre of mowed grass (lawn)**

For an under 1 acre of lawn burn, you must have a 8 foot wide area cleared down to mineral soil or rake off dead grass and wet down outer 8 feet of perimeter near woods, structures and other property.

### **For a 10 x 10 burn pile**

For a 4 foot high, 10 x 10 foot burn pile, you must have a 15 foot wide area cleared down to mineral soil.

## Wind

Burning is not allowed during windy conditions. Remember that you must evaluate the conditions at your specific location. If windy conditions exist in your specific area, do not burn. You will be held responsible if you burn and the fire escapes your burn area. Be familiar with the Beaufort Wind Scale to help judge the wind speed in your area.

## Monitor the Fire

You must be on site while the fire is burning.

## Completely Extinguish the Fire

The fire must be completely out before you leave the site. Remember that you are responsible for any fire that you start until it is COMPLETELY out.