Crop Residue Burning and Smoke Management

Open burning of crop residue is a method used by growers in Idaho and many other areas of the country to improve yields, reduce the need for herbicides and pesticides, reduce fire hazards, and control disease, weeds, and pests.

Crop residue burning, like any other form of burning, creates smoke, which can endanger public health.

To minimize the health impacts of smoke generated by crop residue burning, state law and rules govern when, where, and how crop residue burning may be conducted in the state. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is the state agency assigned by the Idaho Legislature to manage this practice on lands other than the five Indian Reservations in Idaho. (For information on field burning on reservations in Idaho, contact individual Tribes.)

This brochure is designed to provide growers with a summary of Idaho's Crop Residue Burning Program. The following topics are addressed:

- Conditions under which crop residue burning may occur
- Procedures growers must follow before, during, and after crop residue burning
- Instructions on how to register for a crop residue burning Permit-by-Rule and communicate with DEQ
- Where to go for answers to questions not covered in this brochure

For more information

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

State Office
Air Quality Division
1410 N. Hilton
Boise, ID 83706
(208) 373-0502

Regional Offices

Boise
1445 N. Orchard
Boise, ID 83706
(208) 373-0550
toll-free: (888) 800-3480

Lewiston
1118 F Street
Lewiston, ID 83501
(208) 799-4370
toll-free: (877) 541-3304

Coeur d'Alene
2110 Ironwood Parkway
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
(208) 769-1422
toll-free: (877) 370-0017

Pocatello
444 Hospital Way #300
Pocatello, ID 83201
(208) 236-6160
toll-free: (888) 655-6160

Idaho Falls
900 N. Skyline, Suite B
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
(208) 528-2650
toll-free: (800) 232-4635

Twin Falls
650 Addison Ave. W,
Suite 110
Twin Falls, ID 83301
(208) 736-2190
toll-free: (800) 270-1663

Web Resources

Crop Residue Burning
www.deq.idaho.gov/crop-residue-burning

Rules for the Control of Air Pollution in Idaho
http://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/58/0101.pdf

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Crop Residue Burning in Idaho

What Growers Need to Know

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
www.deq.idaho.gov

Crop Residue Burning Conditions

- Burning may be conducted only after a permit has been issued.
- Burning may be conducted only on days designated by DEQ as *burn days*.
- Burn days are limited to *weekdays* (no burning on weekends and state and federal holidays).
- Burning is limited to *daylight* hours (after sunrise and before sunset).
- An acceptable burn day occurs when air quality is good and is expected to continue to be good, as indicated by pollutant levels. Specifically, pollutant levels must not exceed 75% of any applicable federal air quality standard and must be projected to continue at no more than those levels during the next 24 hours or must not exceed or be forecasted to reach and persist at 80% of the one-hour criteria for particulate matter.*
- Burning may only be conducted in fields in which the crop residue was generated.
- Fields may be ignited by reburn machines, propane flamers, or other portable devices. Tires and other restricted materials prohibited by state rules may not be used to ignite fields.

* Burn approval decisions are based on air quality conditions; proximity to towns, schools, roads, hospitals, canyon rims, etc.; the order of burn requests received from applicants; and other relevant factors.

Procedures Growers Must Follow

Before Burning: Attend Training

- **Train.** Attend a DEQ-sponsored training session at least once every five years. Training includes overviews of the permitting process, responsibilities of burners, and compliance techniques.

Before Burning: Register, Pay Fees, Notify DEQ When You are Ready to Burn

- **Register for burn permit.** At least 30 days before you want to burn, register with DEQ for a burn Permit-by-Rule. The following information will be required: location of the property, applicant information, plot plan, acreage, preventative measures available, and proposed date of burning (see Step 1).
- **Pay.** At least 7 days before you want to burn, pay a registration fee of $2 per acre to be burned (see Step 2).
- **Check "ready to burn" box.** Notify DEQ that you are ready to burn by checking the "ready to burn" box online (see Step 3). Notification must be received by DEQ at least 1 business day before you want to burn.
- **Contact other agencies.** Growers are responsible for protecting roadway safety and maintaining control of the burn. Contact your local fire department, Idaho Department of Lands, local highway district, and Idaho Department of Transportation for other applicable permits or approvals.

Before and During Burning: Keep in Touch

- **Communicate.** Carry a portable form of communication such as a cellular phone to receive burn approval notification and/or direction to extinguish or withhold additional material so the fire burns down (see Step 4).

After Burning: Report to DEQ

- **Report.** Within 24 hours after the burn, report to DEQ the following: date burn was conducted, actual number and location of acres burned, and size of any remaining materials (if the burn was not completed). Future burning may be restricted until DEQ receives this information (see Step 5).

Crop Residue Burning Permit-by-Rule Instructions

Step 1: Complete the Permit-by-Rule registration at least 30 days before you want to burn. An electronic version of the registration form may be accessed on DEQ's website at *www.deq.idaho.gov/crop-residue-burning*; paper registration forms are available at any DEQ regional office. Submit registration online and mail a signed copy to:

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
CRB Program
Crop Residue Burning Registration
1410 N. Hilton
Boise, ID 83706

Step 2: Pay $2 fee per acre to be burned to DEQ at least 7 days before you want to burn. Submit fees online or to the address above.

Step 3: Notify DEQ when you are ready to burn at least 1 business day before you want to burn.

Step 4: The day of the burn, DEQ will contact approved growers prior to 11 a.m. with approval to burn and permit requirements.

Step 5: Submit a post-burn report to DEQ within 24 hours after the burn.

Crop residue includes:

- Entire fields
- Spots within a crop for weed control
- Broken bales on the field where they were generated during harvest
- Pastures
- Food plots
- Lands that are in Conservation Reserve Programs & Habitat Improvement Programs

Questions or comments?
Call the Crop Residue Burning Hotline at 1-866-224-2456 or contact the DEQ Regional Office nearest you (see reverse).