



# Burning Waste

## FACTS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

August 2004

While burning may be the simplest way to clean up a site, open burning can release pollutants, reduce visibility, create unpleasant odours and cause contamination.

To ensure the environment is protected, the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* (EPEA) classifies debris as either burnable or prohibited.

### WHAT YOU CAN BURN

Burnable debris includes:

- Brush and fallen trees
- Used power and telephone poles that do not contain preservatives
- Wood or wood products not containing preservatives such as creosote, pentachlorophenol, CCA etc.
- Solid waste from tree harvesting
- Straw, stubble, grass, weeds, leaves and tree prunings
- Solid waste from post and pole operations that does not contain wood preservatives

### WHAT YOU CAN'T BURN

A permit from Alberta Environment is required to burn prohibited debris anywhere in Alberta. Prohibited debris includes:

- Animal manure
- Pathological waste (waste from human health centres)
- Wood or wood products containing wood preservatives
- Waste materials from construction sites
- Rubber, including tires
- Plastic, including baler twine
- Oil
- Containers that held pesticides or other chemicals
- Plastic or rubber-coated materials, including copper wire
- Any waste that causes dense smoke, offensive odours or releases toxic substances

### WHERE YOU CAN'T BURN

Different laws regulate where you can burn, and some require you have a permit, even for burnable debris.

Unauthorized burning of any kind is restricted in Calgary, Edmonton and many other municipalities.

Contact your local fire department to learn more about restrictions and requirements.

### REMEMBER TO RECYCLE

Many items that you may consider burning can be recycled. These items include:

- Plastic
- Paper and cardboard
- Metal materials
- Used oil
- Tires
- Beverage containers

Call the Alberta Recycle Information Line at 1-800-463-6326 for local information.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on backyard burning, contact the Alberta Environment regional office nearest you.

### NORTHERN REGION

#### Edmonton

#111, Twin Atria Building  
4999-98 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T6B 2X3  
Tel: 780.427.7617  
Fax: 780.427.7824

### CENTRAL REGION

#### Red Deer

#304, Provincial Building  
4920-51 Street  
Red Deer, Alberta, T4N 6K8  
Tel: 403.340.7052  
Fax: 403.340.5022

### SOUTHERN REGION

#### Calgary

#303, Deerfoot Square Building  
2938-11 Street NE  
Calgary, Alberta, T2E 7L7  
Tel: 403.297.7880  
Fax: 403.297.6069

Out of date