

What You Can Do

• Reduce

You can reduce the amount of waste you generate by using durable, long lasting goods and avoiding disposable items; buying products in bulk; and looking for products with less packaging.

• Reuse

Reusing items is another way to reduce the amount of waste you generate. Repair, sell, or donate used or unwanted items or organize a neighborhood swap event. One person's trash is another person's treasure!

• Compost

Composting is a great way to dispose of yard trimmings and food scraps, while creating a natural, free fertilizer. Many communities offer weekend classes on how to compost, and some even provide composting bins at a reduced cost or show you how to build your own.

• Recycle

Contact your local government to find out about curbside pick-up of recyclable materials or drop-off locations.

• Properly Dispose of Waste

Don't litter or dump illegally. Use a waste collection service or take your waste to a transfer station, convenience center, or local landfill. Check with your local officials to learn about collection service and drop-off sites in your community.

For More Info...

Helpful Websites and Tools to Use

- For New Mexico information visit the NMED's Air Quality Bureau web site at www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb or call us at (505) 476-4300 or toll free at 1-800-224-7009. Call us for free copies of our open burning poster and children's activity book.
- To learn more about the dangers of backyard burning and disposal alternatives visit EPA's Backyard Burning Web site at www.epa.gov/msw/backyard. This site also provides brochures, and links to state environmental departments and their open burning regulations, as well as links to numerous local government programs, codes, and ordinances.
- For more information on dioxins, how they are formed, associated health effects, and other frequently asked questions, visit EPA's Dioxin Web site at www.epa.gov/ncea/dioxin
- Recycling and Composting information for New Mexico may be found at NMED's Solid Waste Bureau web site at www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swb or call (505) 827-0197. Free brochures, presentations, and workshops are available.
- To report suspected violations call our toll free number above or your local field office. Refer to back cover for local field office numbers.

NMED District Offices

District I

121 Tijeras Ave. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87102
(505) 222-9500

District II

2540 Camino Edward Ortiz
Santa Fe, NM 87507
(505) 827-1840

District III

2301 Entrada del Sol
Las Cruces, NM 88001
(575) 524-6300

NMED
New Mexico
Environment
Department



NMED Air Quality Bureau

525 Camino de los Marquez
Suite 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Phone: 505-476-4300
Or toll free at 1-800-273-7009
www.env.nm.gov/aqb

Hidden Hazards of Back Yard Burning

What You Should Know Before You Burn



www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb

*Protecting
our
Environment,*

*Preserving
the
Enchantment*



Open Burning in New Mexico

Did you know that the State of New Mexico adopted new open burning regulations in 2004? This regulation applies to almost all types of outdoor burning, including trash, weeds, yard waste, agricultural, and prescribed burning.

Why Regulate Open Burning?

The primary purpose of the regulation is to reduce air pollution and protect human health. Open burning produces numerous toxic, irritant, and carcinogenic pollutants. These pollutants can cause a wide variety of ailments and health effects ranging from coughing and asthma attacks to increased risk of heart attacks, strokes, and cancer. Restrictions in the regulation are intended to minimize the impacts of smoke on people, and to prevent burning in residential areas. An additional reason for limiting open burning is to protect New Mexico's scenic vistas.

DIOXINS

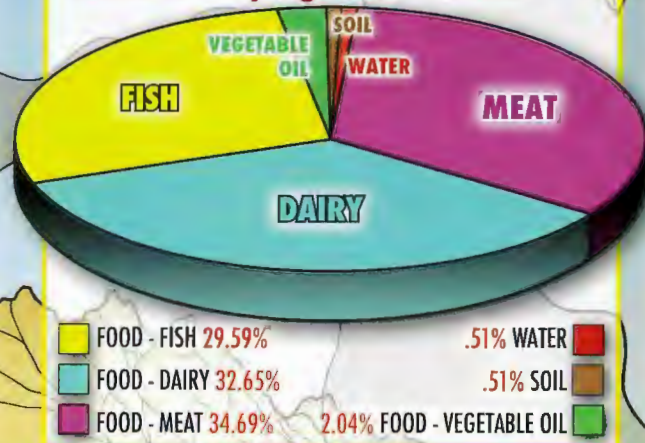
What are dioxins?

Dioxins are highly toxic, long-lasting chemicals. They are dangerous at extremely low levels and have been linked to many health problems, including cancer and developmental and reproductive disorders.

How are we exposed to dioxins?

Dioxins are formed when trash is burned. Dioxins accumulate in the food chain. Airborne dioxins can settle onto feed crops, which are then eaten by domestic meat and dairy animals. Dioxins also can settle on water or enter waterways through soil erosion. These dioxins accumulate in the fats of animals, and then in humans when we consume meat, fish, and dairy products.

Source of Daily Ingestion of Dioxin



About the Regulation

Permits

- No longer issued by NMED. Check with local fire department
- Burners are responsible for knowing and following the rules

Household Trash Burning

- **Never** allowed

Vegetation Burning

- Includes weeds, yard waste, agricultural and prescribed burning
- Requirements are determined by size of burn and location (open burn or smoke management plan)
- Contact local field office if you are unsure of any requirements before you burn

Other Types of Burning

- Firefighter training
- Campfires
- Emergency burning
- Hazardous Waste

Penalties

Violation of the regulation is a petty misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$500 and/or up to six months in jail. NMED has the authority under state law to assess civil penalties for violations.

Smoke Management Plans

Required when burning:

- 1.) > 1,000 cubic feet of material
- 2.) > 10 acres of land or more
- 3.) or in a non-attainment area

Registration, Notification & Tracking Required

- Fill out and submit proper forms
- Visual monitoring for all burns
- At least 300 feet from property line
- Time frame restricted to 1 hour after sunrise to 1 hour before sunset

Or

- Ventilation index good or better
- Notify local fire authority and public
- Complete tracking forms

