

## TIPS TO BURNING WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF CHURCH HILL

### **TITLE 13 PROPERTY MAINTENANCE REGULATIONS/ 13-101. burning of refuse.**

***It shall be unlawful for any person to burn refuse in such manner as to create a fire hazard or to constitute a nuisance because of dense smoke or obnoxious odors. (2003 Code, § 8-101).***

Inside the City of Limits of Church Hill, there is no permit that is required. In the event that the burning creates a nuisance or a hazard, the Fire Chief or Police Officer can make the property owner extinguish the fire hazard. Please follow the below recommendations for outdoor burning:

#### ***Follow these simple tips to conduct a Safe Debris Burn Plan***

**1. CHECK FOR LOCAL RESTRICTIONS AND OBTAIN A BURN PERMIT IF REQUIRED**

*There is no burn permit required for the City of Church Hill.*

**2. NOTIFY YOUR NEIGHBORS**

*If you are burning wooded land be sure to let adjacent landowners know of your plans to burn at least 2 days in advance. This will help your neighbors and keep you in compliance with the law. Also notify the Church Hill Fire Department (423) 357-6666 and check for any burn bans*

**3. KEEP WATER AND TOOLS HANDY**

*Have an available supply of water and hand tools such as rakes and shovels nearby in case your fire should get away. Mechanized equipment may be necessary to contain fires when weather and fuel conditions make control difficult.*

**4. ESTABLISH FIREBREAKS**

*Rake or plow a firebreak around the area you want to burn. Firebreaks should be clean of vegetation and wide enough to contain flames and flying embers. When burning piles the firebreak must be wide enough to catch rolling debris. The taller the vegetation the wider the firebreak should be. It should expose a swath of bare ground at least 3 feet wide through leaves or short grass. It should be at least 5 feet wide through tall grass or brush.*

## **5. WATCH THE WEATHER**

*Stay informed about possible weather changes. Wind and relative humidity are important weather considerations. Approaching fronts and thunderstorms may change wind directions and generate strong gusts. Outdoor burning should be postponed when winds are high, relative humidities low, and wind gusts are predicted.*

*Generally, burning permits are not issued on dry, windy days. Even if you have a permit, you should stop burning if a strong wind comes up. Winds may not only carry burning embers into surrounding vegetation but also fan the flames making the fire difficult to control.*

*Mornings and early evenings are usually good times to burn because winds are calmer and the relative humidity is higher. Be sure to complete your burning early enough that your smoke will disperse and does not become a health or highway hazard.*

## **6. CONTROL THE FIRE**

*Your fire is your responsibility! You may be liable for any damages your fire and smoke cause to other people's property!*

*Select a burn location away from overhanging tree branches and overhead and underground utility lines. Intense heat from a fire could ignite leaves of trees or cause damage to branches and tree trunks. It could also damage utility*

*Be sure you have enough help. Don't try to burn more than you can handle by yourself. Keep debris piles small, gradually adding to the fires as they burn down. Large piles of burning debris generate intense heat capable of carrying relatively heavy embers up and across control lines.*

## **7. STAY WITH YOUR FIRE**

*Don't leave your fire until it is completely out and cold, regardless of the time of day. This requirement not only applies to homeowners, but also to contractors conducting debris fires while land clearing. Use plenty of water, douse the embers and mix them with dirt until they are cool and safe. Brush and debris piles can appear to be burned out, but a gust of wind can fan embers causing them to flame or blow across control lines. Within minutes a calm situation can become a wildfire!*

**SHOULD YOUR FIRE ESCAPE AND SPREAD, CALL 911 RIGHT AWAY**

*What Not to Burn:*

**Tires and other rubber products**

**Vinyl siding and vinyl shingles**

**Plastics and other synthetic materials**

**Paper products, cardboard and newspaper**

**Asphalt shingles, and other asphalt roofing materials and demolition debris**

**Asbestos-containing materials**

**Paints, household and agricultural chemicals**

**Aerosol cans and food cans**

**Building material and construction debris**

**Buildings and mobile homes**

**Coated wire**

**Household trash**

**Most vegetation not grown on site**

**It may be okay to burn leaves, branches, tree limbs, twigs, lawn clippings, woody vegetation, yard trimmings, clean unpainted, uncoated wood or untreated lumber.**

**Check your local and/or other state ordinances. Improper out-door burning can lead to fines up to \$25,000**

*Should you have any questions feel free to contact:*

***Church Hill Fire Department- (423) 357-6666***