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**FOR RELEASE:** June 8, 2011  
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## **Athens County Residents Fined for Open Burning**

Ohio EPA has ordered Wendy Plageman and Mike Ogburn to pay a \$1,000 penalty for multiple open burning violations at their residences/properties located at 1830 Mineral Rd. and 8005 SR 356 in Waterloo Township. Neither Plageman nor Ogburn have responded to any of Ohio EPA's notices of violation.

In April 2009, Ohio EPA received a complaint about open burning at the SR 356 property. Ohio EPA inspected the property and found evidence of open burning of plastics and household waste. The fire area contained stacks of trash bags, furniture cushions and other trash.

Ogburn was issued a notice of violation and asked to stop open burning. However, in September 2009, another open burning complaint prompted a follow-up inspection at the same property. Ohio EPA discovered evidence of open burning of wood, household garbage and other trash and wrote to the property owner, Wendy Plageman, asking her to stop open burning.

In June 2010, Ohio EPA received a complaint of open burning at 1830 Mineral Rd. The Agency inspected the property and found remnants of the open burning of trash, a box spring, plastic seat cushions and other solid waste. Neighbors indicated Plageman owned the property. In July, another open burning complaint prompted a follow-up inspection at the same property where Ohio EPA discovered a trailer fire had occurred just days before. The Waterloo Township Fire Department's report indicated Ogburn had started the trailer fire. Ohio EPA again notified Plageman and Ogburn by letter to discontinue all open burning activities at the two addresses.

In unrestricted areas, open burning of residential waste (i.e., waste excluding food garbage) is permitted with conditions such as when the fire is more than 1,000 feet from an inhabited building on an adjacent property and does not contain rubber, grease, asphalt or liquid petroleum products. The Plageman and Ogburn residences/properties are in an unrestricted area. In restricted areas (generally within and/or just outside of a municipal corporation depending on population), no waste can be burned. Ohio EPA offers guidance for open burning [online](#) (including information on limited exceptions requiring written permission).

Questions and/or complaints about open burning in Southeast Ohio can be directed to Ohio EPA's Southeast District Office at (740) 385-8501. Citizens also can contact their local municipalities which may have additional open burning ordinances.