



Public Interest Center | P.O. Box 1049 | Columbus, OH | 43216-1049

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Ohio EPA Proposes Changes to Open Burning Rules

Ohio EPA has proposed rule changes governing open burning, and will hold a public hearing on Friday, March 9, 2012, to take comments on the updates.

The hearing will begin at 10:30 a.m. at Ohio EPA Central Office, 50 West Town Street, Suite 700, Columbus. Please bring a photo ID for registration. All interested persons wanting to testify at the hearing regarding the open burning rules will be given the opportunity to comment for the record.

Changes to the open burning standards include adding a provision to facilitate the disposal of confiscated marijuana by law enforcement officials through open burning. This action is currently accomplished by written permission using the emergency or extraordinary provisions section of the rules. Since this activity is infrequently performed and only by law enforcement officials, Ohio EPA proposes to not require written permission for law enforcement from Ohio EPA to expedite disposal of confiscated marijuana.

The proposed rules include new language requiring Ohio EPA notification before burning in unrestricted areas if agricultural waste piles exceed 20 feet in diameter by 10 feet in height, or no more than 4,000 cubic feet. For residential wastes, notification would be required before burning if a waste pile exceeds 1,000 cubic feet, or 10 x 10 x 10 feet.

The rules would add a provision that Ohio Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention be listed with agricultural agencies permitted to open burn for the control of disease or pests, and for agencies permitted to burn in restricted areas.

The rules would also clarify the timeline for submittal and approval of written permission to open burn.

[Copies of the proposed rule changes](#) are available at Ohio EPA's website, or by emailing Lee Burkleca at lee.burkleca@epa.ohio.gov. Written comments may be mailed to Ohio EPA Division of Air Pollution Control, Attention: Lee Burkleca, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049. Written comments must be received by Ohio EPA by close of business March 9, 2012. Ohio EPA will consider all comments before any final action is taken on these rules.