

# STEAMBOAT SPRINGS FIRE PREVENTION SERVICES ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL

**SECTION:** 7  
**POLICY NO.:** 1262.1  
**DATE:** September 23, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Administrative policy for handling Special Activity Permit for residential recreational fires and open burning in the City of Steamboat Springs and Steamboat Springs Area Fire Protection District.

**PERSONNEL AFFECTED:** All persons wishing to perform residential recreational fires / open burning within the City of Steamboat Springs or the Steamboat Springs Area Fire Protection District.

**PURPOSE:** To insure uniformity and accountability of all residential recreational fires / open burning performed within the jurisdiction of the Steamboat Springs Fire Prevention Services.

**GENERAL STATEMENT:** Nothing in these policy/procedures shall be in conflict with the Municipal Code of the City of Steamboat Springs, the Personnel and Administrative Regulations Manual (PARM) of the City of Steamboat Springs or the laws of the State of Colorado.

## **POLICY:**

### **1.0 GENERAL PROVISIONS**

#### **1.1 When Required:**

##### **1.1.1 Within the City of Steamboat Springs**

**1.1.1.1 "Residential Recreational Fire Permit"**- shall be obtained from the Office of Fire Prevention Services for any residential recreational fire. Permits may be filled out over the phone or in person. Inspections shall be performed prior to any recreation fires. Commercial recreational fire permits may be issued for one time only special events on a case by case basis.

**1.1.1.2 "Open Burning"** - No Open Burning is allowed.

## 1.1.2 Within the Steamboat Springs Area Fire Protection District

1.1.2.1 **“Residential Recreational Fire Permits”** - shall be obtained from the Office of Fire Prevention for any residential recreational fire. Permits may be filled out over the phone or in person. Inspections shall be performed prior to any burns. Commercial recreational fire permits may be issued for one time only special events on a case by case basis.

1.1.2.2 **“Open Burning”** – is only allowed within the “Burn Season” of November 1 through April 15 and there must be a minimum of 6 inches of snow covering the ground at the burn area. ***A permit is not required when these specific parameters are present.*** Steamboat Springs Fire Prevention reserves the right to extend the burn season depending on weather conditions.

Also, a “Routt County Application for Air Quality Open Burning Permit” must be obtained from the Routt County Environmental Health Department, call 879-0185.

Agricultural Burning meeting the definition set forth in section 2.0 of this policy are exempt from permit requirements and burn seasons.

## 2.0 DEFINITIONS

- **OPEN BURNING.** The burning of materials wherein products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber. Open burning does not include road flares, smudge pots and similar devices associated with safety or occupational uses typically considered open flames or recreational fires.
- **RECREATIONAL FIRE.** An outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, barbeque grill or barbeque pit and has a total fuel area of 3 feet (914 mm) or less in diameter and 2 feet (610 mm) or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.
- **BURN SEASON.** A specific date range in which open burning is allowed within the Steamboat Springs Area Fire Protection District. Those dates being from

November 1 through April 15 in which there is a minimum of 6 inches of snow covering the ground at the burn area. Steamboat Springs Fire Prevention reserves the right to extend the burn season depending on weather conditions.

- **AGRICULTURAL OPEN BURNING.** As established in Colorado Air Quality Control Commission's Regulation 9, agricultural open burning is "the burning of cover vegetation for the purpose of preparing the soil for crop production, weed control, maintenance of water conveyance structures related to agricultural operations, and other agricultural cultivation purposes." Open burning of animal parts or carcasses is *not* agricultural burning (unless the State Agricultural Commission declares a public health emergency that requires the burning of diseased animal carcasses). Open burning of household trash, wood, and yard debris on agricultural land is *not* agricultural burning and is *not* exempt from State permitting requirements.

APPROVED BY: Mel Stewart, Fire Chief

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_



DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

October 7, 2014

SUPERSEDES POLICY OF: April 28, 2014