
It's the LAW!

The burning of landscape waste has been an issue of intense and often heated debate at both the state and the local levels for the past decade. Landscape waste includes leaves, grass, tree limbs, shrubbery cuttings and other materials accumulated on the property.



Is it legal to burn leaves in Illinois?

The answer depends on the local laws and ordinances, as units of local governments have the authority to impose leaf-burning bans. Permission by the local fire department is also required for open burning of leaves, twigs and small branches.

Illegal Open Burning

A citation for illegal fires may be issued by the Lake County Sheriff Deputies, municipal code officials in the appropriate village and/or the Countryside Fire Protection District. **Contact Lake County Open Burning Hotline at 847-377-2999**

Citations can be as much as \$500.00 per violation.

Village / Lake County Regulations & Guidelines



Vernon Hills—Open Burning is **NOT** permitted. Outdoor Fireplaces & Fire Pits are permitted only when firewood is used for recreational purposes in accordance with the manufacturers instructions.

Hawthorn Woods—Open Burning is **NOT** permitted. Outdoor Fireplaces & Fire Pits are permitted only when firewood is used for recreational purposes in accordance with the manufacturers instructions. With a permit, prairie conservation areas are allowed to be burned in a controlled manner.

Long Grove—Burning of leaves or grass clippings is **NOT** permitted. Burning of twigs, branches and small trees is permitted. With a permit, prairie conservation areas are allowed to be burned in a controlled manner.

Indian Creek—Burning of leaves or grass clippings is **NOT** permitted. Outdoor Fireplaces & Fire Pits are permitted only when firewood is used for recreational / cooking purposes in accordance with the manufacturers instructions. With a permit, prairie conservation areas are allowed to be burned in a controlled manner.

Unincorporated Lake County—Burning of leaves or grass clipping is **NOT** permitted- small branches are permitted during daylight hours and only from **NOVEMBER 1– MARCH 31**. The burning of branches must be generated on the property. Maximum size of any burn pile is 5' in diameter and 3' high. Recreational fire size 3'x3'x3' permitted year round. **ANY ILLEGAL BURING, CONTACT LAKE COUNTY HOTLINE 847-377-2999.**

**** You MUST follow the Do's and Don'ts in ALL areas ****

Permits and guidelines are provided at the Countryside Fire Protection District (847-367-5511)

The Fire Chief may impose a ban on open burning in the best interest of public safety at any time.

DO's and DON'Ts

For OPEN BURNING

- Please call the Countryside Fire Dispatch @ 847-918-6110 (non-emergency) before you start burning.
- Please visit us at www.countrysidefire.com for more information on open burning.
- Burning must take place during the day light hours only. Best time of the day to burn is the mid-morning to mid-afternoon as smoke should disperse quicker.
- Open burning must be attended by an adult at all times.
- A water source of some sort must be provided. (hose or a fire extinguisher)
- Open burning must be 25' from any structures. (50' from schools & roads—NOT in Road)
- Maximum size of any burn pile is 5' in diameter and 3' high.
- Materials being burned are limited to landscape waste generated on the property of the burn site.
- Burning trash or construction debris is strictly prohibited.
- DO NOT use gasoline as a fire starter. It is explosively dangerous!
- Wind velocity must exceed 5 MPH and must not exceed 15 MPH.
- Smoke from open burning shall not obstruct visibility on roadways, etc.
- Fire or smoke must not create a hazard or nuisance situation. Be courteous and respectful to your neighbors especially those with breathing problems.
- Dispose of ashes by drowning them and placing them in a metal can.
- Outdoor grills and metal fire pits are limited to recreation and cooking fires.

**Fire Prevention is
Everyone's job.**

- *Smoke detectors and fire sprinklers save lives.*
- *Test your smoke alarms monthly.*
- *Change your smoke alarm batteries twice a year.*
- *Plan and practice a home fire drill and have an outside meeting place.*

For More Information
Contact the
Countryside Fire
Protection District

Non-emergency #
847-367-5511

Visit our website at
www.countrysidefire.com

**Emergency
Call 9-1-1**

January 2022



**Countryside Fire Protection District
Headquarters
600 N. Deerpath Drive
Vernon Hills, IL. 60061-1804**

A Guide To OPEN BURNING in the Countryside Fire Protection District

*PROUDLY SERVING
Vernon Hills, Hawthorn Woods, Long Grove, Kildeer, Indian Creek
and Unincorporated areas of Lake County
SINCE 1959*



**Chuck Smith
Fire Chief**

**Bruce Brown
President**

