

Burn Ordinance

If you are going to burn ditches, fields, slash piles, leaves or other organic material, you must first call the Gunnison Communications Center at 641-8200, option 1. The dispatcher will advise you as to whether a Red Flag Warning (no burning) has been issued. If burning is permitted the dispatcher will ask for your name, address/location of the burn, and your phone number. You will be asked to call Gunnison Communications and advise them when the burn is out. Burning during a Red Flag Warning, failure to notify the Communications Center or leaving a fire unattended can result in a ticket being issued, and fines imposed. Either of these two situations also increases personal liability, should the fire get out of control and/or damage other property. Open burning is not permitted in the Towns of Crested Butte, Mt Crested Butte or the City of Gunnison. For further information in the Gunnison area, contact Fire Marshal Dennis Spritzer at 641-8153 or dennis@cityofgunnison-co.gov, and for the Crested Butte area, contact Crested Butte Fire Chief Ric Ems at 349-5333 or rems@crestedbutte.net.

Agricultural Burning in Gunnison County

If you plan on doing any type of open burning in Gunnison County, please observe and follow these guidelines:

1. Notify the Gunnison Communications Center at 641-8200, option 1. The dispatcher will need to know the location, size, and approximate start and finish times of the burn, as well as your phone number – preferably a cell phone. If a Red Flag Warning in effect or anticipated, the dispatcher will advise you of that, and you will not be allowed to burn. Failure to notify the Communications Center could result in the Fire Department arriving at your burn, should someone call it in as an actual fire. This could result in a summons and a fine up to \$500.00
2. You will also be required to call Gunnison Communications and advise them when the burn is extinguished.
3. Plan your burn for the early morning hours, 6:00 AM – 9:00 AM, or later in the evening after 6:00 PM, when the winds are generally calmer. Check local weather conditions and forecasts prior to starting your burn, paying special attention to wind conditions.
4. Ensure that there is an adequate water supply, and that you can reach the perimeter of the burn area. Wet down and/or mow the perimeter of your burn area to keep the fire from getting out of the planned burn area.
5. If you are burning a large area, it is best to burn in small sections, lighting and maintaining only one section at a time.
6. It is always best to have someone help you with your burn – never burn alone. Ensure there are no structures, or vehicles within 50 feet of the burn area.
7. If your burn gets out of control, call 9-1-1 immediately. Any delay in calling 9-1-1 only causes the problem to get worse, potentially threatening lives and property.
8. Remember, if your burn gets out of control and damages others property, you could be held civilly liable, and possibly receive a summons with fines. Failure to notify Gunnison Communications of your burn, burning during a Red Flag Warning or leaving the burn unattended can also result in a summons and fines.
9. Open burning is not permitted in the Towns of Crested Butte, Mt Crested Butte or the City of Gunnison.
10. For further information in the Gunnison area, contact Gunnison Fire Marshal Dennis Spritzer at 641-8153 or dennis@cityofgunnison-co.gov and for the Crested Butte area, contact Crested Butte Fire Chief Ric Ems at 349-5333 or rems@crestedbutte.net.