

PRESCRIBED BURNING IN MONTANA

Prescribed burning is a proven way to reduce impacts of wildfires and protect Montana's landscapes. Planned burns today mean fewer devastating wildfires tomorrow.

Prescribed burns are mostly used to:

1 manage landscapes and vegetations.

2 reduce fuel loads.

3 protect homes and structures.

4 help reduce large, destructive wildfires.

5 restore natural vegetation.

Prescribed Burn Facts

- Prescribed burns occur mostly in the spring and fall.
- Prescribed burns are carefully planned and implemented.
- The decision to burn is based on temperature, wind, humidity, and vegetation moisture and more.
- Prescribed fires are approved when conditions allow them to burn at low intensity and produce minimal smoke.
- Forest managers work with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and local health agencies to conduct prescribed burns when conditions will minimize smoke impacts on nearby communities.

Where can I find information about prescribed burns near me?

Use QR code to access the state burn permit and notification service website.





Wildfire Smoke

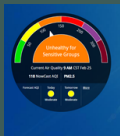
What You Should Know

Wildfire smoke contains PM_{2.5} particles that are four times smaller and up to 10 times more toxic than most other pollutants. The tiny particles enter homes and buildings through open doors and windows, HVAC systems, or gaps and cracks in the walls and ceilings.

The body's natural defenses usually block larger particles like pollen, mold or construction dust that can irritate the lungs. However, PM_{2.5} is different. The super small PM_{2.5} particles bypass those defenses, reaching deep into the lung and sometimes even entering the bloodstream, making it a serious health risk.

How can I keep my family safe from smoke?

- 1 Bookmark fire.airnow.gov to get the most accurate air quality information. Limit time outdoors when air quality is unhealthy.



- 2 If you have a medical condition, consult your health care team and prepare for smoky conditions. Keep essential medications, including rescue inhalers, readily available.

- 3 Keep doors and windows tightly closed and seal cracks where tiny smoke particles could enter your home.

- 4 Purchase a HEPA air cleaner or make a DIY box fan filter to filter smoke from the air in your home.



- 5 Change your plans to avoid smoke during a prescribed burn event. If smoke is in the air, it will dissipate quickly.



- 6 Turn the air conditioning settings in your car and home to recirculate.



DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES



Lewis & Clark
Public Health