

# **NEWS RELEASE**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **OPEN BURNING**

Now that it's time for spring yard cleaning the Regional Air Pollution Control Agency (RAPCA) wants to remind area residents that open burning of tree trimmings, leaves, as well as trash and papers, is prohibited in residential areas (restricted areas). In non-residential areas (unrestricted areas), a written permit or verbal permission may be required prior to open burning.

Open burning can cause breathing difficulties, especially for those suffering from asthma, emphysema, bronchitis and other respiratory problems. In addition, area fire departments are concerned about open burning as it often leads to large grass and brush fires.

The Ohio open burning rules prohibit the burning of garbage--including food containers, rubber, asphalt siding, and tires--in any area. In addition, open burning of leaves and yard waste is prohibited within "restricted areas". By definition, a restricted area is any area located within the boundary of any municipal corporation, plus a zone extending one thousand feet beyond the boundaries of any such municipal corporation having a population of one thousand to ten thousand persons and a zone extending one mile beyond any such municipal corporation having a population of ten thousand persons or more. Unrestricted areas are all areas located outside the boundaries of restricted areas.

Residents living in "unrestricted areas" may be permitted to burn residential and agricultural waste which originates on the premises, providing they meet certain conditions as to location, type, and time of the fire.

Burning during Air Pollution Advisories is prohibited so be sure to call RAPCA's Air Line at 937-223-3222 to make sure no air alerts have been issued. In the past, this only applied in the summer months with Ozone Action Days. Since Ozone Action Days have been expanded to Air Pollution Advisories (to account for fine particulates) air alerts can be issued throughout the year. Information on open burning laws and obtaining permits, as well as on alternatives to open burning, can be obtained by calling RAPCA at 225-4435. Ohio's open burning rules can be viewed at [www.epa.state.oh.us/dapc/regs/3745-19/3745\\_19.html](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dapc/regs/3745-19/3745_19.html).

Complaints regarding incidences of open burning can also be directed to the above number.

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