

## Open Burn Management Plan for areas of Routt County within the Jurisdictional Boundary's of Fire Districts

**During periods of extreme fire danger or poor air quality the Governor and/or the County Commissioners may impose an open burning ban which supersedes this plan.**

### **Objective:**

The objective of this Open Burn Management Plan (the "Plan") is to serve as a unified plan for management of open burns throughout the Fire Districts within Routt County as to fire safety and air quality. This Plan will also create a single open burn permit within the Fire Districts that Burn Managers may obtain from the appropriate Fire District.

### **Applicability:**

This Plan shall be administered by the Fire Districts and the Routt County Department of Environmental Health ("RCDEH"). This plan shall apply only to burns located within the jurisdictional boundaries of Fire Districts that have entered into an intergovernmental agreement with Routt County.

### **Definitions:**

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.

Burn Manager: An individual who obtains a valid Open Burn Permit in order to plan, build, control, extinguish, and otherwise supervise an open burn during a Burn Season.

Fire Districts: North Routt Fire Protection District, Oak Creek Fire Protection District, Steamboat Springs Area Fire Protection District, West Routt Fire Protection District, Yampa Fire Protection District.

Open Burn Permit: A permit issued by a Fire District on a form approved by the Routt County Department of Environmental Health and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment ("CDPHE").

Rubbish: Waste material including but not limited to, garbage, waste paper and debris from construction or demolition, and untreated lumber.

Fire Types: The designated number assigned to an open burn by the fire district based on the criteria in the fire type table contained in this plan.

**Open Burn Rules:**

1. The following shall be exempt from these rules and the permitting requirements.
  - a. Fires for cooking of food.
  - b. Fires for instructional or recreational purposes (e.g. campfire).
  - c. Flares to indicate danger to the public.
  - d. Agricultural Open Burning.
2. All open burns require an Open Burn Permit.
3. All open burns that meet the criteria of a Type 4 burn require a separate permit issued by CDPHE. The Fire District may, at its discretion, require a permit issued by CDPHE or the RCDEH for any open burn.
4. No open burns shall be permitted on days when the relevant Fire District has issued a fire danger rating of High, Very High, Extreme or Red Flag Warning has been issued.
5. Open burning that is offensive or objectionable because of smoke or odor emissions or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited.
6. Open burning of rubbish, tree stumps, painted or treated wood, dimensional lumber, excessive dirt, construction debris, and demolition debris is prohibited.
7. Open burning shall only be performed when time and atmospheric conditions allow for safe burning and adequate ventilation.
8. Open burning shall not be conducted within fifty (50) feet of any structure or other combustible materials. Conditions which could cause the fire to spread to within 50 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition. **EXCEPTION:** Clearances from structures and other combustible materials is allowed to be reduced if conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure are eliminated prior to ignition and:
  - A. Not less than fifteen (15) feet when burning is conducted in an approved burning appliance.
  - B. Not less than twenty-five (25) feet when the pile size is three (3) feet or less in diameter and two (2) feet or less in height and contained in a burn pit.
9. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating or other approved on site fire-extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck, shall be readily available for use at open burning sites.

10. Open burning shall be *constantly* attended by a person knowledgeable in the use of the fire extinguishing equipment required and familiar with the permit limitations as stated on the Open Burn Permit until the fire has been extinguished.
11. Start ignition no *earlier* than 9:00 a.m. Start ignition no *later* than 11:00 a.m., or as allowed by permit (to allow adequate time for the burn to extinguish).
12. Ignite piles only when smoke plume will not reach any occupied neighboring home unless snow is falling.
13. Burn Managers shall “chunk” each type 2 or type 3 pile at least once. That is, before the fire self-extinguishes and after the fire has burned down enough that the work can be done safely, consolidate partly burned wood to promote renewed flaming. Focus on pieces of wood that are smoldering, especially those that extend beyond the burned edge of the pile. Usually the easiest way is to toss outer sticks back into the center of the pile’s footprint. Alternatively, extinguish smoldering wood by placing individual pieces separately in adjacent snow, and scraping the charred wood as needed with a shovel or similar tool. Chunk each type 2 pile by sunset of the same day it was ignited. Chunk each type 3 pile no later than sunset of the day after it was ignited.
14. Representatives of Routt County Fire Protection Districts are authorized to require that any open burn or recreational fire be immediately discontinued if they determine that the smoke emissions are offensive to occupants of surrounding property or if the open burn is determined to constitute a hazardous condition.
15. The Open Burn Permit shall be onsite with the person attending the open burn and made available to the authorities when requested.
16. The Burn Manager, on the day of the burn and prior to ignition, must contact the Fire District directly or check the Fire District’s notification system to ensure that the type of burn for which the Open Burn Permit applies (Type 2, or Type 3) is allowed. This requirement is not applicable to Type 1 burns as identified on the Open Burn Permit.
17. The Burn Manager must call the Routt County Communications Center on the day of the burn and prior to ignition at **(970) 879-1110** and provide their permit number.

<b>North Routt Fire Protection District</b>	<b>970 879-6064 office</b>	<b>970 879-6726 fax</b>
<b>Oak Creek Fire Protection District</b>	<b>970 736-8104 office</b>	<b>970 736-8344 fax</b>
<b>Steamboat Springs Fire Rescue</b>	<b>970 871-8216 office</b>	<b>970 871-6306 fax</b>
<b>West Routt Fire Protection District</b>	<b>970 276-3511 office</b>	<b>970 276-3191 fax</b>
<b>Yampa Fire Protection District</b>	<b>970 638-4227 office</b>	<b>970 638-4227 fax</b>
<b>Routt County Communications Center</b>	<b>970 879-1110 office</b>	<b>970 870-1246 fax</b>

## **Duties and Responsibilities:**

Routt County Department of Environmental Health: RCDEH shall perform the following duties.

1. Adhere to and enforce the functions and duties as described in the Delegation of Authority from CDPHE.
2. Offer training to the Fire Districts as funding and opportunity for same is available.
3. Respond to the inquiries of Routt County citizens who may have health-related sensitivities to smoke and provide notice of known open burns to such citizens if requested.
4. Ensure this Plan complies with directives of the Routt County Board of Commissioners and the Routt County Sheriff.
5. RCDEH shall respond to any smoke related open burning complaints that it receives

Fire Districts: The Fire Districts shall perform the following duties.

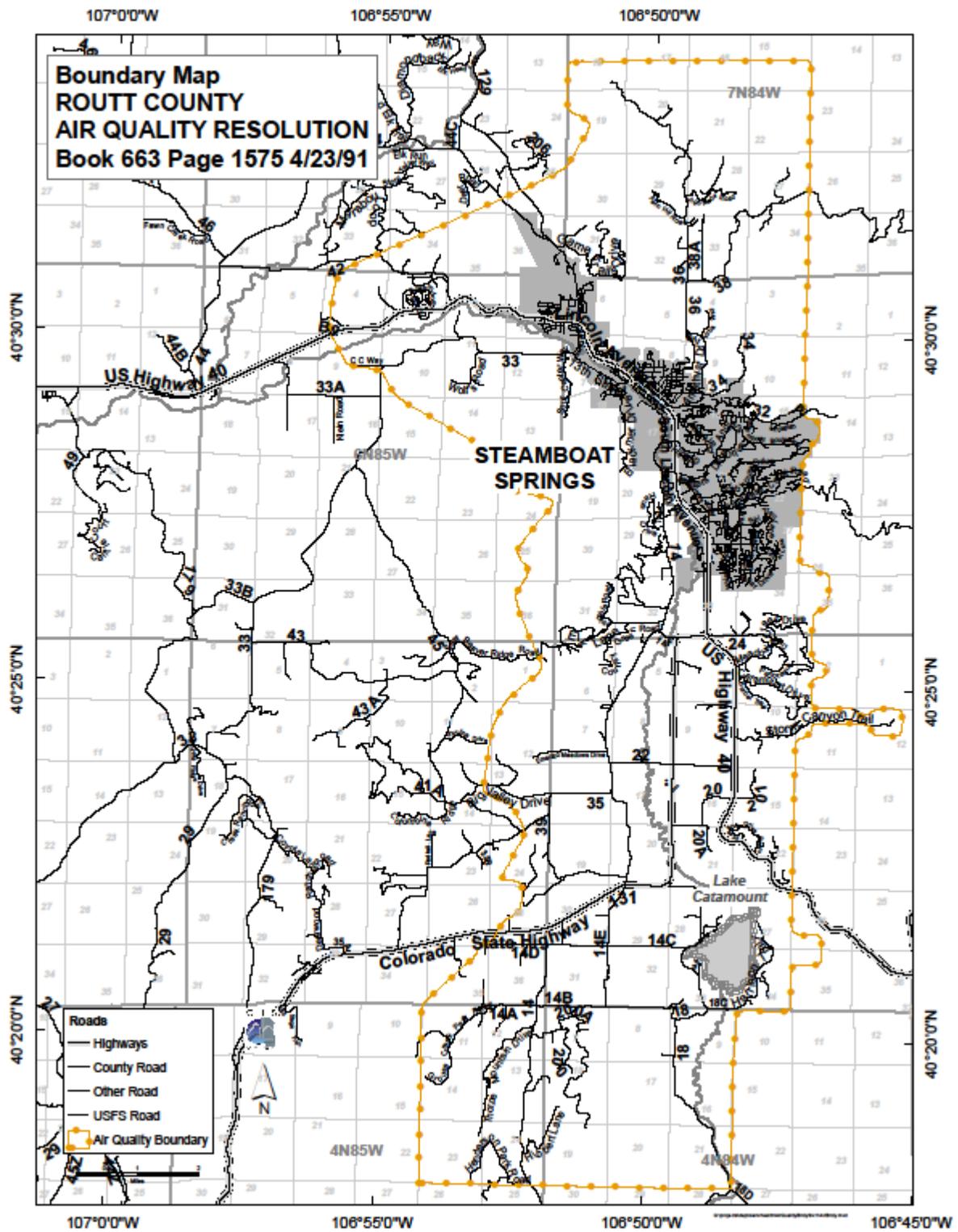
1. Ensure that all chiefs, inspectors, and employees have appropriate and adequate training to implement this Plan. Specifically, the Fire Districts shall participate in trainings offered by RCDEH and/or Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).
2. Issue Open Burn Permits using the forms for permitting open burns as required by RCDEH and/or CDPHE. Permit issuer *must* determine the type of fire on the permit (Type 1, Type 2, or Type 3).
3. Provide a copy of this Plan or a form containing the Open Burn Rules as described above to the Burn Manager or Open Burn Permit applicant.
4. Maintain photos of all permitted burns and submit these photos and Open Burn Permits to RCDEH on a monthly basis. At least one photograph of an open burn site, depicting the site's content prior to ignition, shall be required. The Fire District shall retain the photographs and Open Burn Permits for at least three (3) years. If requested by the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division (CAPCD) and/or RCDEH, the Fire District shall provide records pertaining to burn sites within ten (10) days of said request.
5. Adhere to and enforce the Open Burn Rules described above.
6. Adhere to and enforce the International Fire Code as to open burning.
7. The Fire District will conduct an inspection of the open burn piles before a permit is issued. During the inspection the inspector will assign the burn a fire type and inspect the pile in accordance with the training provided by CDPHE and RCDEH.

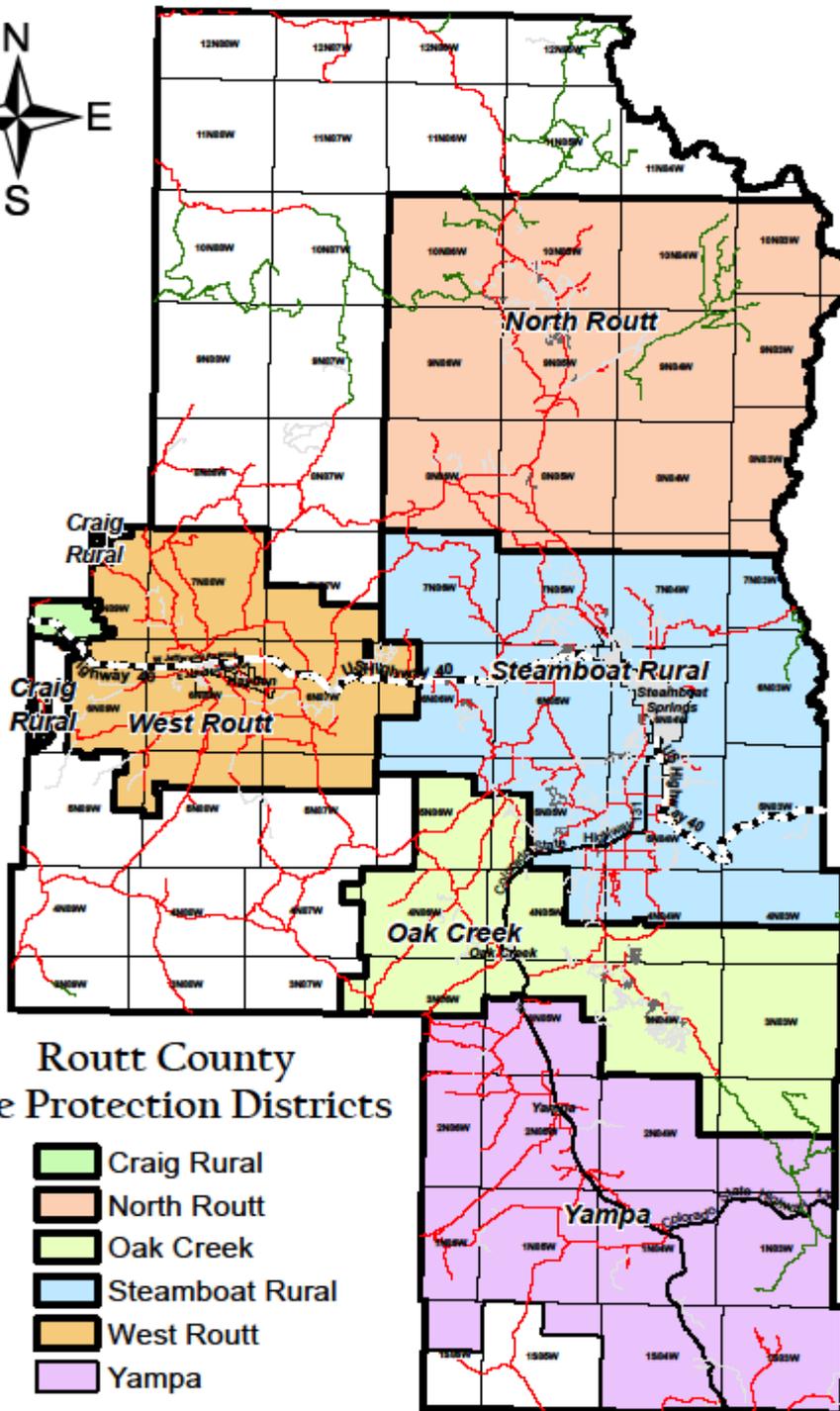
8. All open burns within the Steamboat Springs Air Shed will be given a fire type one number higher than in areas outside the Steamboat Springs Air Shed.
9. The Fire Districts may, at their discretion, establish a burn season outside of which open burning may not occur.
10. Collect, on a daily basis, the atmospheric and other relevant data necessary to determine whether Type 2 or Type 3 fires shall be allowed on that day and issue the appropriate public announcement (e.g. “burn day for Type 2 fires” or “no-burn day for Type 3 fires”). The Fire District shall use the following table to establish what days open burning is allowed and what days open burning is not allowed for both Type 2 and Type 3 fires within the burn season.

## Fire Type Table

<u>If both these criteria are met,</u>		<u>then it is an approved burn day for these piles<sup>1</sup></u>																								
<u>Fire Danger</u>	<u>Air Quality</u>																									
<b>in burn season based on snow pack and no red flag</b>	<b>any weather</b>	<b>Type 1</b> , bonfires as defined by international fire code																								
<b>in burn season and no red flag</b>	forecasted ventilation of <b>fair</b> or better, <b>or</b> forecasted <b>storm</b>	<b>Type 1 AND Type 2:</b>  fewer than 50 piles in entire project each burning piles will be out cold by sunset on the day of ignition maximum dimensions of a pile is 10x10x10 no log in any pile exceeds 12” diameter																								
<b>in burn season and no red flag</b>	forecasted ventilation of <b>good or</b> better, <b>or</b> forecasted <b>snow storm</b>	<p><b>Type 1 and 2 AND Type 3:</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2" style="text-align: center;"><u>Area of Routt County</u></th> <th rowspan="2" style="text-align: center;"><u>Distance to Nearest Neighbor</u></th> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;"><u>Largest volume per pile, in cubic feet</u></th> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">grapple (1)</th> <th style="text-align: center;">blade (2)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="2" style="text-align: center;">In Steamboat Springs airshed</td> <td style="text-align: center;">up to 5.0 mi.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2,000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">500</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">more than 5 mi.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7,100</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="3" style="text-align: center;">NOT in Steamboat Springs airshed</td> <td style="text-align: center;">up to 0.6 mi.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7,100</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">0.6 - 5.0 mi.</td> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">50,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">more than 5 mi</td> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">no upper limit</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(1) All slash was lifted into piles, as with a grapple or rake. (2) Some slash was pushed into pile(s), as with a blade</p>		<u>Area of Routt County</u>	<u>Distance to Nearest Neighbor</u>	<u>Largest volume per pile, in cubic feet</u>		grapple (1)	blade (2)	In Steamboat Springs airshed	up to 5.0 mi.	2,000	500	more than 5 mi.	7,100	2,000	NOT in Steamboat Springs airshed	up to 0.6 mi.	7,100	2,000	0.6 - 5.0 mi.	50,000		more than 5 mi	no upper limit	
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<b>in burn season and no red flag</b>	Conditions in permit from CDPHE	<b>Type 1 - 3 AND Type 4:</b> Size and distance combination exceeds Type 3 or Local Fire District determines that the burn requires a state permit.																								

- Use dimensions from on typical or average-size pile. Put different piles in separate or the most restrictive of the relevant categories if (a) any pile is more than a third again as large as the average and/or (b) more than 20% of the piles fall in a larger size category.  
**Example dimensions:**  
**10 x 10 x 10 Mound = 393ft<sup>3</sup> (Largest pile size that can be assumed out cold by sunset.)**  
**13' x 13' x 7' mound = 465 ft<sup>3</sup>**  
**20' x 20' x 12' mound = 1,885 ft<sup>3</sup>**  
**30' x 30' x 20' mound = 7,068 ft<sup>3</sup>**  
**55' x 55' x 20' upright cylinder = 47,500 ft<sup>3</sup>**
- 'Home' means closest occupied residence other than the property owner. For piles >300 ft<sup>3</sup> each, to count as occupied there must be someone in the home either the day of burning or the following night. Only for piles ≤ 300 ft<sup>3</sup> each, if a home is vacant during the burn day it may be considered to be unoccupied.





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Open Burning Application & Permit

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Permit No. \_\_\_\_\_ Permit Exp \_\_\_\_\_ Pile Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ GPS Coordinates: \_\_\_\_\_

Landowner: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Burn Supervisor (if different): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Distance to nearest neighbor: \_\_\_\_\_

Fire District:

- North Routt     Oak Creek     Steamboat     Yampa     West Routt     Other
- 970.879.6064    970.736.8104    970.871.8216    970.638.4227    970.276.3511    \_\_\_\_\_

**Pile(s) Information**

Recreational Fire:  Yes  No

Permanent Recreational Permit       Six (6) Month Recreational Permit

# of piles: \_\_\_\_\_ Photos on file:  Yes  No

Pile Dimensions: H \_\_\_\_\_ W \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ Pile Shape: \_\_\_\_\_

Pile size (cubic feet): \_\_\_\_\_

Pile Construction:

Hand     Grapple/Rake     Blade

Dirt, stumps, construction trash, etc:  Yes  No

Percent of wood volume greater than 3" diameter: \_%

Fire committed and feasible to be cold by sunset:  Yes  No

Constant attendance:  Monitored:

Material to be burned: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Approved:

Disapproved:

Re-inspection required:

Applicant's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and time: \_\_\_\_\_

Fire inspector's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and time: \_\_\_\_\_

## Pile Type Summary & Burning Checklist

**!!!! A valid copy of this permit shall be kept with the permittee while burning !!!!**

- Type 1
  - Recreational Fires: No Red Flag or fire restrictions
  
- Type 2
  - General Conditions: In Burn Season, no Red Flag, pile out by sunset
  - Confirm smoke dispersal forecast: (Snowing or Forecast of Fair or better)
    - Contact Fire Department. \_\_\_\_\_
    - Date & time contacted: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Notify Routt County Communications (970.879.1110) with permit number & intent to burn.
    - Date & time contacted: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Ignite pile(s) prior to 1100 and re-pile as needed for complete burn
  - Monitor piles until completely extinguished.
  - Report to Fire Department # of piles burned
    - Date contacted: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Rehabilitate and reseed burn site
  
- Type 3
  - General Conditions: In Burn Season, no Red Flag
  - Confirm smoke dispersal forecast: (Snowing or Forecast of Good or better)
    - Contact Fire Department. \_\_\_\_\_
    - Date & time contacted: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Notify Routt County Communications (970.879.1110) with permit number & intent to burn.
    - Date & time contacted: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Ignite pile(s) prior to 1100 and re-pile as needed for complete burn
  - Monitor piles until completely extinguished.
  - Report to Fire Department # of piles burned
    - Date contacted: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Rehabilitate and reseed burn site
  
- Type 4
  - Conditions as required by Colorado Air Pollution Control Division Permit
  - Contact Fire department for Fire Safety Inspection
  - Notify Routt County Communications (970.879.1110) with permit number & intent to burn.
    - Date & time contacted: \_\_\_\_\_