Application for Open Burning Approval

Greater Vancouver Regional District Air Quality Management Bylaw No. 1082, 2008

ALL FIELDS ARE MANDATORY. INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED.

Persons conducting open burning (operators) as a service to a property owner can register the property on behalf of the property owner. If the property owner is an individual, the operator must have consent from the property owner to disclose their contact information to Metro Vancouver.

The information on this form is collected by Metro Vancouver under s. 26(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used to manage your application for an open burning approval. Should you have any questions about the collection of this personal information, please contact the Privacy Officer at privacy@metrovancouver.org.

1. I,_____
(Full name. If a company, British Columbia registered name)

   give notice to those persons affected that I hereby apply for an approval to discharge contaminants into the air from an open burning operation located at:

   _____
(address of burn site)

2. Include a site plan with your application showing the location of the burn pile(s) on the property.
3. Are you the legal landowner? ☐ Yes ☐ No

   If no, has the legal landowner received a copy of this application? ☐ Yes ☐ No
4. The distance from the pile(s) to the nearest:
   - Business _____ metres
   - Residence _____ metres
   - Highway _____ metres
   - School, hospital, or care facility _____ metres
5. Type of vegetative debris to be burned:

   _____

   _____

   _____

6. What is the maximum diameter of the vegetative debris to be burned?_____ centimetres

7. What is the source of the vegetative debris to be burned?

☐ Agricultural ☐ Land Clearing ☐ Residential

8. Seasoned vegetative debris:

- Has the vegetative debris been in a pile(s) for at least 4 months? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Does the vegetative debris have a dry basis moisture content of 30% or less? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Does the vegetative debris originate from standing dead timber? ☐ Yes ☐ No

9. Are you requesting authorization to burn diseased vegetative debris? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, is the verification of infestation by a professional included? (see Guidance) ☐ Yes ☐ No

10. Number of piles: _____

11. Dimensions of pile(s) in metres (height x width x length):

- Pile 1 _____ x _____ x _____
- Pile 2 _____ x _____ x _____
- Pile 3 _____ x _____ x _____

If you have more than three piles, please provide the dimensions of the additional piles:

_____

_____

_____

If you have more than one pile, how many would you like to burn at the same time? _____

12. How soon do you need your approval and how many actual burn days will you need?

Requested approval start date _____ (YYYY-MM-DD)

Estimate the total number of actual burn days _____

13. How many months do you need this approval for? _____

14. I will minimize air emissions by (check all that apply):

☐ Using an air curtain burner

☐ Using blowers or fans

☐ Trench burner

☐ Other (describe below)

_____

_____

_____

If you are using technology to minimize air emissions, complete the following:

15. Blower or fan details:

- Number of blowers or fans per pile _____
- Size of each blower or fan _____
- CFM rating of each blower or fan _____

Air Curtain Burner Details

- Make _____
- Model _____

Attach additional sheets with your application if necessary.

16. What is the area of the parcel of land where you would like to conduct open burning?

_____ hectares.

17. Applicant information

Name _____

Email _____

Mailing address (if different from burn location)

_____

Telephone _____

Signature of applicant or agent _____

Date _____ (YYYY-MM-DD)

Please complete this declaration and submit it with your application.

Declaration

Describe how you reduced the volume of vegetative debris to be burned (check all that apply):

☐ Chipping/grinding ☐ Composting ☐ Landfill ☐ Sold marketable lumber ☐ Other

_____

_____

_____

Tell us why you couldn't use other methods for reducing, reusing, or recycling the amount of vegetative debris?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Name of applicant company or individual _____

Date _____ (YYYY-MM-DD)

Telephone _____

Signature of applicant or agent _____

Guidance for Filling in the Open Burning Approval Form

ALL FIELDS ARE MANDATORY. INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED.

If you have questions, contact us at contact us at (604) 432-6200 or
regulationenforcement@metrovancouver.org

1. Provide the full name of the responsible person or BC Registered Company and the civic address.
2. Include a site plan showing the location of the burn pile(s) on the property (a marked up Google map is okay).
3. If you are not the legal landowner, you must provide the legal landowner with a copy of your application.
4. Emissions from open burning have the greatest impact on children, the elderly, and those with existing heart and lung diseases such as asthma or COPD. Locate your pile(s) as far away as possible, ideally 500 m from residences, and businesses and 1000 m, from schools, and hospitals. Smoke can also obscure visibility for those travelling on nearby roads.
5. Describe the vegetative debris to be burned to the best of your ability. Be as descriptive as possible, for example, land clearing debris consisting of small diameter aspen trees growing below power lines, removal of invasive blackberry brambles bordering twenty-acre property, etc.
6. Measure and provide the maximum diameter of the vegetative debris in centimeters (e.g. 15 cm).
7. Indicate whether the source of the vegetative debris is agricultural or land clearing.
8. Wet or green vegetative debris will generate more smoke and therefore will have more stringent requirements. Moisture content of the vegetative debris should be measured with a moisture meter. Moisture meters may be purchased locally at hardware stores (e.g. Canadian Tire, Home Hardware, Lee Valley Tools, and Home Depot) or through online retailers (e.g. Amazon.ca).
9. To qualify for the relaxation of requirements for burning diseased vegetative debris, the vegetative debris must be verified as being infested with a pathogen or insect by a professional as described in Section 24 of the BC Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation and you must submit that verification with your application.
10. Provide an estimate of the total number of piles to be burned.
11. Provide the dimensions of each pile in metres (height x width x length).
12. If you have more than one pile, tell us how many piles you would like to burn at the same time.
13. Provide the date when you want the approval to take effect and estimate how many actual burn days you will need. We will typically issue approvals for 90 days to ensure there are enough days with optimal venting index so that you don't have to reapply for an approval in the same season. You are still limited to only burning the vegetative debris identified in your approval.
14. Indicate how many months you will need the approval for.

15. Describe how you will minimize air emissions from the burn. Options for minimizing emissions include alternate disposal for portions of the vegetative debris, use of air curtain burners, using blowers or fans, only burning seasoned vegetative debris from your land, checking and adhering to the ventilation index as well as local smoke dispersion forecasts every day prior to burning, only starting to burn in the late morning after ventilation conditions improve, not adding vegetative debris to the pile(s) 2 hours before sunset when ventilation starts to worsen, etc.

16. If you are using blowers or fans to minimize emissions, provide information on the number and size of blowers/fans as well as the cubic feet per minute (CFM) rating for each blower/fan. If you are using an air curtain burner provide the make and model of the unit.

17. The BC Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation has restrictions on allowable periods of open burning in high smoke sensitivity zones for parcels of private land that are smaller than 64 hectares.

18. Complete the declaration indicating how you have minimized the total amount of vegetative debris to be burned. Provide information on all options considered for disposal of the vegetative debris other than burning. Identify which options you implemented and for any that you didn't implement, provide an explanation as to why.

19. Send the completed application package, in electronic format, to: regulationenforcement@metrovancouver.org. Include any relevant attachments required for questions 2 and 15.

    Paper applications and attachments can be mailed to:

    Metro Vancouver
    Environmental Regulation & Enforcement
    4515 Central Boulevard
    Burnaby BC, V5H 0C6

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to apply for authorization for open burning from Metro Vancouver?

Before you release air contaminants, including smoke, to the environment, you must get authorization from Metro Vancouver under GVRD Air Quality Management Bylaw No. 1082, 2008 (Bylaw 1082). The Province of British Columbia delegated this authority to Metro Vancouver under the BC Environmental Management Act. Open burning of vegetative debris is an activity that releases air contaminants to the environment and therefore requires authorization by Metro Vancouver.

You may be able to register your parcel of land for open burning under *MVRD Open Burning Emission Regulation Bylaw No. 1355, 2022*, rather than applying for an approval or permit, through our Open Burning Authorization and Registration page.

My municipal fire department already requires a permit; why do I need one from Metro Vancouver?

Municipal fire departments require permits for safety reasons while Metro Vancouver's mandate is to regulate air quality, to protect human health and the environment. To meet this mandate, Metro Vancouver needs to be aware of and approve releases from activities such as open burning. This enables Metro Vancouver to require that burning is conducted in a manner that minimizes emissions of smoke.

What do you mean by "in a manner that minimizes emissions"?

Conditions in an approval may include but are not limited to: only burning seasoned vegetative debris, only burning during acceptable weather conditions (good ventilation), the use of forced air to improve combustion, a ban on burning prohibited materials, and limits on the frequency and duration of burning.

Do I have to provide notification to anyone?

The BC Public Notification Regulation leaves it to the discretion of the district director to determine whether notification of an approval application is needed. If it is needed, you will be required to publish or electronically publish a copy of your application in local newspapers and post a copy of the application at the proposed burn site. Concerned persons would then be given sufficient time to provide comments to Metro Vancouver before an approval is issued or denied. Furthermore, open burn approvals may include a requirement to give personal notice to nearby residents, businesses, schools and health care facilities prior to starting to burn.

What information do you need from me?

Refer to the guidance at the back of these forms and answer all the questions to the best of your ability. The more complete the information, the faster your application will be processed.

How long will it take Metro Vancouver to process my application?

Submit your application **at least one month in advance** of your planned burn.

Can I use this form to apply to burn material that is not vegetative debris?

No.

Do I have to pay fees for an approval?

Yes. Metro Vancouver charges a non-refundable fee to cover the cost of processing applications. The fee for an Open Burn Approval is $100 for farm operations and $1,000 for all other operations. Contact us at (604) 432-6200 or regulationenforcement@metrovancouver.org for instructions on how to pay your fee.

What if I don't apply for an approval?

Discharge of an air contaminant without approval can lead to a ticket of up to $1,000 per day.
The maximum fine for a contravention of Bylaw 1082 is $1,000,000.

CHECK WITH YOUR LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR MUNICIPAL RESTRICTIONS BEFORE ANY OPEN BURNING AS THEY MAY BE VERY DIFFERENT FROM METRO VANCOUVER'S REQUIREMENTS.