Crop Residue Burning and Smoke Management

Open burning of crop residue is a method used by growers in Idaho and many other areas of the country to improve yields, reduce the need for herbicides and pesticides, reduce fire hazards, and control disease, weeds, and pests.

**Crop residue burning, like any other form of burning, creates smoke, which can endanger public health.**

To minimize the health impacts of smoke generated by crop residue burning, state law and rules govern when, where, and how crop residue burning may be conducted in the state. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is the state agency assigned by the Idaho Legislature to manage this practice on lands other than the five Indian Reservations in Idaho. (For information on field burning on reservations in Idaho, contact individual Tribes.)

This brochure is designed to provide growers with a summary of Idaho’s Crop Residue Burning Program. The following topics are addressed:

- Conditions under which crop residue burning may occur.
- Procedures growers must follow before, during, and after crop residue burning.
- Instructions on how to register for a crop residue burning Permit-by-Rule and communicate with DEQ.
- Where to go for answers to questions not covered in this brochure.

For more information

**Idaho Department of Environmental Quality**
1410 N. Hilton
Boise, ID 83706

**Air Quality Division:** (208) 373-0502

**Boise Regional Office**
1445 North Orchard
Boise, ID 83706
(208) 373-0550
toll-free: (888) 800-3480

**Lewiston Regional Office**
1118 F Street
Lewiston, ID 83501
(208) 799-4370
toll-free: (877) 541-3304

**Coeur d'Alene Regional Office**
2110 Ironwood Parkway
Coeur d’Alene, ID 83814
(208) 769-1422
toll-free: (877) 370-0017

**Pocatello Regional Office**
444 Hospital Way #300
Pocatello, ID 83201
(208) 236-6160
toll-free: (888) 655-6160

**Idaho Falls Regional Office**
900 N. Skyline, Suite B
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
(208) 528-2650
toll-free: (800) 232-4635

**Twin Falls Regional Office**
1363 Fillmore Street
Twin Falls, ID 83301
(208) 736-2190
toll-free: (800) 270-1663

DEQ Web Site:
Crop Residue Burning Information for Growers and the Public
www.deq.idaho.gov/crop_residue_burning.cfm

Department of Administration Web Site:
Rules for the Control of Air Pollution in Idaho

Printed on recycled paper. July 2008. Costs associated with this publication are available from the Department of Environmental Quality in accordance with Section 66-202, Idaho Code.
Crop Residue Burning Conditions

Burning may be conducted only on days designated by DEQ as burn days.

Burn days are limited to weekdays (no burning on weekends and holidays).

Burning is limited to daylight hours (after sunrise and before sunset).

An acceptable burn day occurs when air quality is good and is expected to continue to be good, as indicated by pollutant levels. Specifically, pollutant levels must not exceed 75% of any applicable federal air quality standard and must be projected to continue at no more than those levels during the next 24 hours or must not exceed or be forecasted to reach and persist at 80% of the one-hour criteria for particulate matter.*

Burning may only be conducted in fields in which the crop residue was generated. Burning baled material like old hay or straw is not allowed.

Fields may be ignited by reburn machines, propane flammers, or other portable devices. Tires and other restricted materials prohibited by state rules may not be used to ignite fields.

Crop Residue Burning Permit-by-Rule Instructions

Step 1: Complete the Permit-by-Rule registration at least 30 days prior to proposed burn date. An electronic version of the registration form may be accessed on DEQ's Web site at www.deq.idaho.gov/crop_residue_burning.cfm; paper registrations are available at any DEQ regional office.

Step 2: Submit registration online and mail a signed copy to:

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
CRB Program
Crop Residue Burning Registration
1410 N. Hilton
Boise, ID 83706

Step 3: Pay $2 fee per acre to be burned to DEQ at least 7 days prior to the proposed burn date. Submit fees online or to the address above.

Step 4: If approved, expect to receive a telephone call from your DEQ Seasonal Burn Coordinator no later than 5 p.m. the day before burning has been requested. (If not approved, DEQ will not call the grower.)

Step 5: The day of the burn, DEQ Seasonal Burn Coordinators will contact approved growers prior to 11 a.m. for confirmation of burning approval or notification of changes that prohibit burning.

Procedures Growers Must Follow

Before Burning: Attend Training
- **Train.** Attend a DEQ-sponsored training session at least once every five years. Training includes overviews of the permitting process, responsibilities of burners, and compliance techniques. (Previous training in the last five years by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture satisfies this requirement.)

Before Burning: Register and Pay Fees
- **Register for burn permit.** At least 30 days before a proposed burn, register with DEQ for a burn Permit-by-Rule. The following information will be required: location of the property, applicant information, plot plan, type, acreage, fuel characteristics of crop residue proposed to be burned, preventative measures available, and proposed date of burning (see Step 1).
- **Pay.** At least 7 days before the proposed burn, pay a registration fee of $2 per acre to be burned (see Step 3).

Before and During Burning: Keep in Touch
- **Communicate.** Carry a portable form of communication such as a cellular phone or radio to receive burn approval notification and/or direction to extinguish or withhold additional material so the fire burns down (see Step 5).

After Burning: Report to DEQ
- **Report.** Within 24 hours after the burn, report to DEQ the following: date burn was conducted, start and end times of burn, actual number and location of acres burned, observation and evaluation of burn, and size of any remaining materials (if the burn was not completed). Future burning may be restricted until DEQ receives this information.

Questions? Contact the DEQ Regional Office nearest you (see reverse).