



Jackson Hole Fire/EMS Operations Manual

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PURPOSE

To provide a decision matrix for Open Burning outside of fire closures but elevated fire danger exists. Provide consistent trigger points and communication tools to promote wildfire risk reduction during elevated fire danger periods.

SCOPE

The guidelines apply to Jackson Hole Fire/EMS (JHFEMS) Duty Officers and to Jackson Dispatch.

SECTION I – DEFINITIONS

Open Burning – The burning of materials wherein products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber. Open burning does not include road flares, smudgepots and similar devices associated with safety or occupational uses typically considered open flames, recreational fires, or use of portable outdoor fireplaces. Also referred to as Controlled Burning.

SECTION II – GENERAL PROCEDURES

Open Burning on Teton County, Wyoming private lands are called into Jackson Dispatch (307-733-2331) daily per JHFEMS Open Burning rules. Dispatch will place the following information in CAD for an Open Burning notification:

- Responsible Party with phone number collected for the open burning.
- Location established for reference during response to smoke reports, complaints
- Open Burning Rules were provided to the caller

See the JHFEMS website for updated Open Burning rules.

SECTION III – FIRE CLOSURES

Fire Closures, per Wyoming Statute 35-9-303, are directed by the Board of County Commissioners and are coordinated with the County Fire Warden. During Fire Closures, residents and contractors calling into Jackson Dispatch will be advised of the Fire Closure by dispatchers. The JHFEMS Duty Officer will be notified if the caller needs additional information or requests to speak to someone regarding the wildfire risks.

SECTION IV – ELEVATED FIRE DANGER TRIGGER POINTS

The following conditions of Elevated Fire Danger warrant discouragement of open burning:

- Forecasted Red Flag Conditions (RH <17% and sustained winds >20 mph)
- ERC's greater than 43
- 1000-hour Fuel moisture below 12%
- Very High Fire Danger Rating
- Recent human-caused fire starts related to burning activity (past 7-10 days)
- Limited local suppression resources or mutual aid availability

SECTION V – JHFEMS PROCEDURES

Prior to the wildfire season, the Deputy Chief will provide Dispatch with an updated copy of the JHFEMS Open Burning Notification policy.

JHFEMS will respond as an Investigate Fire to reports of smoke or fire that cannot be immediately attributed to an Open Burn called into Dispatch or concerns that a Responsible Party is not following Open Burning rules. JHFEMS Duty Officer will utilize their discretion of engaging law enforcement and/or extinguishment with any open burning that does not follow open burning rules.

Once Elevated Fire Danger Trigger Point(s) are reached, the JHFEMS DO will inform Dispatch. Communication to Dispatch of Open Burning Status will occur at the JHFEMS DO shift change. Dispatch can assume that the Elevated Fire Danger is in place until notified.

SECTION V – DISPATCH PROCEDURE FOR ELEVATED FIRE DANGER

1. Dispatch receives a call with an Open Burning notification.
2. Dispatch refers to the status update confirming Elevated Fire Danger.
3. Dispatch utilizes the language in the Open Burning SOP tab for language discouraging burning during Elevated Fire Danger.
4. If necessary, Dispatch informs the JHFEMS Duty Officer of a need for follow-up to caller questions or concerns.
5. Units dispatched as indicated on Investigate Fire run card to all reports of smoke or fire.

Suggested language for Dispatch:

“Due to elevated fire danger and current fuel conditions, we are strongly discouraging open burning today. Conditions are approaching restriction levels, and resources are limited. We recommend postponing burning or using alternatives such as chipping or haul-off.”