



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
**St. Joseph, MO**  
**Health Department**

## **P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

City of St. Joseph Health Department  
904 South 10, St. Joseph, MO 64503

for more information contact the Health Department 271-4636  
or the Fire Department at 271-4603

March 25, 2014

### **Spring Open Burning Season Announced**

Open burning for spring 2014 has been approved for Monday, April 7, 2014 through Sunday, April 27, by the Chief of Enforcement Section of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Open burning is permitted on these days within the City of St. Joseph under the following guidelines:

- Burning of yard waste of residential properties only - ONLY dry yard waste such as leaves, brush and logs grown on the property can be burned. No trash, paper, lumber or building debris may be burned.
- Burning is allowed between 10am and 3:30pm.
- All fires must be in an upright cylindrical metal container with a volume equal to no more than 55 gallons. Containers must be located at least fifteen (15) feet away from any building. Only one burn container per residence.
- All fires shall be monitored from a point on the property where the fire is located, by a person capable of containing a fire, should containment become necessary.
- Fire-fighting material, including but not limited to, a garden hose or a container of water sufficient to contain any fire started shall be at the site of the fire.

- If weather conditions such as high winds indicate the safety of the community or the public may be endangered or if open burning may create a health hazard, the fire chief or health director may invoke a temporary burning ban.

Any violation of the open burning restrictions may result in a summons to appear in court for a misdemeanor violation.

Residents are encouraged to explore alternatives to open burning. Many options for disposing of yard waste are easy, do not contribute to air pollution, are not dependent on time restrictions or the weather, and provide the healthy benefit of physical activity while doing yard work instead of breathing acrid smoke from a waste fire. Such activities include mowing leaves into fine particles and leaving them lay to fertilize the lawn, or incorporating leaves into a mulch container to decompose into humus for use in vegetable and flower gardens or for use on lawns as a soil amendment. Larger wood brush that can be chipped makes excellent mulch around trees and shrubs. Family and friends with gardens may want additional yard waste to use as mulch.

If you choose to burn, please do so within the days provided, as open burning session will not be extended due to weather blackout dates.

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

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