



Lloyd Winnecke  
Mayor

CITY OF EVANSVILLE  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1 NW Martin Luther King Jr Blvd  
Civic Center Complex Room 310  
Evansville, Indiana 47708  
Ph: 812/435-6145

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**GUIDELINES FOR ACTIVITIES DURING A BURN BAN ISSUED  
BY THE  
VANDERBURGH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
AND THE  
EVANSVILLE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

Effective September 26, 2019, the Vanderburgh County Commissioners and the Evansville Environmental Protection Agency (EEPA) have issued concurrent Burn Bans for Vanderburgh County. The EEPA has jurisdiction within the City limits and four (4) miles beyond City limits, but not outside Vanderburgh County, while the Vanderburgh County declaration includes all areas outside the Evansville corporate limits. The Vanderburgh County Commissioners and the EEPA coordinate issuing Burn Bans and lifting Burn Bans to reduce conflicting requirements and improve public safety.

The purpose of this guidance is to:

- (1) Describe what activities are allowed and prohibited in each geographic territory described below.
- (2) Describe the process where a citizen may obtain approval for a fire
  - (a) Within EEPA jurisdiction;
  - (b) Outside EEPA jurisdiction, but within Vanderburgh County.

**WITHIN EEPA JURISDICTION:**

Within City limits, only small, contained fires for cooking are allowed. These fires should be in cooking grills. No fires on the ground are allowed. As always, only clean wood, LP / Natural gas or charcoal may be burned. Burning wood that has been painted, stained, glued or treated or burning paper, plastics, trash or leaves is always prohibited.

**DISALLOWED:**

NO burning in barrels for disposal; NO burning directly on the ground. NO recreational fires in chimineas, patio fire pits or similar devices. NO burning wood that has been painted, stained, glued or treated or burning paper, plastics, trash or leaves. NO ditch clearing or agricultural fires are allowed. NO Air Curtain Destructors shall be operated.

**PENALTIES:**

Violations of the Burn Ban or burning prohibited materials will result in a Letter of Violation and penalties which begin at Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) and can be as much as Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00) per violation per day.

**APPROVAL PROCEDURE:**

Fires in indoor heating units and outdoor cooking grills do **NOT** need prior EEPA approval. However, many citizens do call in for approval for these types of fires. When this occurs, EEPA will note the needed information and enter the information in our Fire Log.

When a Burn Ban is *not* in effect, to obtain approval for a fire, call Evansville Fire Department at 812-435-6235 during normal business hours and request permission. EFD will note the needed information and enter that

information in our Fire Log. Immediately before the end of each business day, EEPA will email the Fire Log to the Distribution list.

**OUTSIDE EEPA JURISDICTION WITHIN VANDERBURGH COUNTY:**

The Open Burning Emergency shall be in effect for all unincorporated areas of Vanderburgh County and valid 24 hours a day. The ban shall run concurrent with the ban in the City of Evansville.

No person shall set, start or attempt to set, or allow to continue, an open fire within the County unless he or she has first obtained and has in his or her possession a written permit from the commanding office of the fire department having primary jurisdiction over the area where the open fire is to be conducted.

**PENALTIES:**

Any person deemed guilty of a violation of this declaration, and upon conviction, shall be fined Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Vanderburgh County Commissioners:**

**812/435-6145**

**EEPA:**

**(8:00 am to 5:00 pm Weekdays)**

**Central Dispatch can contact the EEPA Director  
outside normal business hours.**

Crystal Ritter-Harper  
Evansville Environmental  
Protection Agency Director