Spot Burn
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE GUIDANCE

OVERVIEW

All burning by commercial agricultural operations requires a permit except burning orchard prunings, natural vegetation along fence lines, irrigation and drainage ditches, or natural vegetation blown by the wind. Even if a permit is not required, a grower must still comply with all fire safety regulations of the local fire protection agency including any no-burn directives it may issue.

There are four types of agricultural burn permits:

- spot burn,
- field burn,
- bale burn,
- orchard tear-out burn.

What is the difference in a spot burn permit and a field burn permit?

1. A spot burn permit is used when a grower has not "pre-identifed an area" to be burned. Spots are located within a field, not the field itself.
2. A spot burn permit provides an opportunity to burn unforeseen and unpredicted small areas where burning is reasonably necessary and no practical alternative to burning exists.
3. A spot burn permit is most commonly used to burn small weed patches, spots of heavy residue, equipment plugs and harrow dumps. Wind rows are not considered spots.
4. A field burn permit would be appropriate when the area you are planning to burn is pre-identified and definable. Any pre-identified area, no matter the size, is considered a field and would require a field permit.

General guidance associated with spot burn permits:

1. A spot burn permit allows the permit holder the opportunity to burn spots equaling up to a total of ten acres per farm per year and is good for the calendar year in which it is issued.
2. The permit holder may not burn more than one acre of spots per day without following the Ag burn decision. The permit holder must call burn hot line at **1-800-406-5322** the day of the proposed burn and abide by that day's burn call for the area where the spots are located.
3. Under special circumstances, special permission may be given by Ecology to exceed the one acre limit. The permit holder must talk directly with a burn team member and get specific permission before the limit of one acre may be exceeded.
4. The cost for a spot burn permit is $25.00
5. Burning is to occur during daylight hours only.
6. For spots of less than 1 acre, situations may come up that make it impractical to call the 800 burn call number. In such cases, permit holders must make every attempt to burn only when emissions will be minimized (i.e. midday). The permit holder must get permission from the local fire protection authority before lighting any fire.
7. The application must contain a map outlining the boundaries of the field(s) in which the spot burning will occur even though each individual spot may not be definable on the map.
8. A legal description (down to the ¼, ¼ section), township, range, identifying all fields which may contain spots must be included as part of the application.