

Guidelines for Open Burning of Natural Disaster Debris
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
Division of Air Pollution Control

Tennessee Air Pollution Control open burning rules include an exception for anyone conducting open burning of materials resulting only from a natural disaster, subject to certain conditions ([1200-03-04](#) Open Burning). Everyone must comply with the listed basic conditions. **Additionally, any governmental collective burn site requires a 3-day advance notice to the appropriate regional Environmental Field Office. Go to [TDEC field offices](#) for contact information.**

A government should only propose collective burn locations that will have minimal impact on public health and safety. For example, stay away from homes and congested areas, schools, hospitals, highways, etc.

Each governmental collective burn site notification needs to include the following:

1. Person responsible for proposed burning and their address/phone/email
2. Site contact person for proposed burning and their address/phone/email
3. Specific address of burn site (Map and Parcel numbers if no 911 address is available)
4. Coordinates of burn site (Latitude/Longitude)
5. Projected start date of burn
6. Projected end date of burn
7. Description of material to be burned

Upon receipt of a complete governmental collective burn site notification, Air Pollution Control staff will conduct a site evaluation, and will respond in writing for your records. If the location is unsuitable, you must propose a different location before you burn.

The alternative use of chippers and grinders, landfilling, or on-site burial of waste in lieu of burning, if lawful, is encouraged.

Please contact your appropriate Division of Solid Waste Management regional office ([TDEC field offices](#)) for requirements concerning management and disposal of generated ash.

To see if the federal government has declared your area as eligible for federal assistance, go to www.fema.gov/disasters.