



# Report Illegal Burning



Burning waste may seem like a convenient manner to get rid of garbage. But the practice is illegal . . . and harmful to people and our ecosystem.

Young children and older adults, especially those with existing respiratory conditions such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease are most susceptible to the immediate negative health effects from open-air burning. Exposure to hydrocarbons, dioxins and furans are linked to problems with cancer, the liver, the immune system, endocrine system, the reproductive system, and the developing systems of the young. Other pollutants of concern in the smoke can include nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, arsenic, mercury, lead, hydrochloric acid, and volatile organic compounds.

Open-air burning of hazardous materials results in pollutants settling on crops, in lakes and rivers and where animals graze or live. These pollutants can affect micro-organisms, plants, fish and mammals, or may be deposited on plants and eaten by livestock.

The complications don't end there. Landowners accepting or burning waste can be fined under the province's environmental laws, or may be forced to do a costly cleanup.

Rather than burning hazardous waste materials, farmers and ranchers are encouraged to take materials to their local landfill or recycle them where possible.

Recycling offers another practical alternative for residents seeking to get rid of waste. There are a number of programs operating in Saskatchewan that collect and recycle products such as old tires, used batteries and electronics, compact florescent bulbs, oil and paint, plastic shopping bags, and construction and demolition materials. If you're not sure where you can recycle, the Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council's website ([saskwastereduction.ca](http://saskwastereduction.ca)) can help you locate recycling resources in your community.

Through education and compliance, the Government of Saskatchewan is hoping to reduce the frequency of illegal burning . . . and keep Saskatchewan beautiful for the future.

If you have further questions about illegal burning, please contact the ministry's Client Service Office at 1-800-567-4224. If you suspect someone is burning mixed waste unlawfully please call the TIP line at 1-800-667-7561 or #5555 from your SaskTel cellular.

#### Contact and References

Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment

Tel: 1-800-567-4224 (toll free in North America) or 306-787-2584

Web: [saskatchewan.ca/environment](http://saskatchewan.ca/environment)

Email: [Centre.Inquiry@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Centre.Inquiry@gov.sk.ca)

Report Burning Mixed Waste at TIP 1-800-667-7561