



Thornton Fire Department
9500 Civic Center Drive
Thornton, Colorado 80229
303-538-7602
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CITY OF THORNTON FIRE DEPARTMENT **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ISSUANCE OF OPEN BURNING PERMITS**

- Open Burning includes the burning of wood, vegetation, or other combustible materials for agricultural purposes, wildlife management, bonfires, or other approved purposes. All Open Burning activities within the City of Thornton (“City”) require an Open Burning Permit.
- All Open Burning activities shall be conducted pursuant to all applicable provisions of the City’s ordinances and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Air Pollution Control Division regulations.
- Open Burning Permits will only be issued to the owner of the land upon which the fire will be kindled.
- It shall be the responsibility of the Open Burning Permit holder to determine if safe weather conditions and safe fire danger rating conditions exist on the day on which the Open Burning Permit holder wishes to conduct Open Burning activities.

- **Open Burning shall be prohibited on any day when either of the following conditions exist:**
 1. A Fire Danger Rating of High, Very High, or Extreme.
 2. 20-Foot Winds are forecast to be 15 mph or greater at any time during the day.
NOTE: 20-Foot Winds are winds measured 20 feet above the ground, and are typically not the winds described in a standard weather forecast on TV or radio. The forecast 20-Foot Winds shall be determined by checking the websites listed below.

- Prior to conducting Open Burning, the Open Burning Permit holder shall use the following websites to determine if safe weather conditions and fire rating conditions exist for Open Burning:
 1. United States Forest Service Wildland Fire Assessment System (USFS – WFAS)
<http://www.wfas.net/index.php/fire-danger-rating-fire-potential--danger-32>
 - Go to the chart titled “Fire Danger Rating”
 - In the column titled “Forecast”, click on the link titled “US48” for today’s forecast
 - A map will come up, titled “Forecast Fire Danger Class”
 - Look at the northeast (upper right) quadrant of the State of Colorado (i.e., Thornton area)
 - If the Fire Danger Class shown in this area is High (yellow), Very High (orange), or Extreme (red), then Open Burning shall be prohibited on the date on the map. (See attached example)
 2. NOAA’s National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office (Denver/Boulder, CO)
<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/bou/include/fwz.php?zone=COZ240&site=bou>
 - This website shows weather information for Colorado Fire Weather Zone 240 (includes Thornton)
 - For the date on which the Open Burning Permit holder wishes to burn, scroll down and look at the entry titled “20-FOOT WINDS”.
 - If the 20-Foot Winds are forecast to be 15 mph or greater at any time during the day, then Open Burning shall be prohibited on that day. See the attached example.

- If the Open Burning Permit holder determines that safe weather conditions and safe fire rating conditions exist on the day on which the Open Burning Permit holder wishes to burn, then prior to conducting Open Burning, the Open Burning Permit holder shall call the City of Thornton Emergency Communications Center at 720-977-5150 to notify the City of Open Burning activities. Provide your name, telephone number, Open Burning Permit number, and the time during which Open Burning will take place.

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City of Thornton Fire Department General Requirements for Issuance of Open Burning Permits

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- **Open Burning with an approved permit may be further restricted or prohibited on any day at any time due to current or expected weather conditions and/or fire behavior.**
- The Thornton Fire Department may at any time provide a message indicating that Open Burning is prohibited that day, regardless of any other information that may be obtained from the listed fire weather websites. This information will be provided by the dispatcher at the City of Thornton Emergency Communications Center, when the Open Burning Permit holder calls to advise of Open Burning activities.
- All Open Burning activities may be subject to an inspection at any time prior to the issuance of a permit or during the term of the permit.
- Any Open Burning of yard waste, leaves, garbage, or other rubbish materials is prohibited in all areas of the City and an Open Burning Permit will not be issued for such activities.
- Open Burning shall not be conducted within 50 feet of any structure. Prior to Open Burning, all combustible materials around the burn area shall be cleared for a distance of at least 50 feet.
- When Open Burning is required to be conducted in an approved container, the container shall be constructed of metal, concrete, or other approved non-combustible material.
- Approved fire-extinguishing equipment shall be operational and in the immediate vicinity of the burn site at all times during any Open Burning operations and until completely extinguished.
- A person knowledgeable in the use of fire-extinguishing equipment and familiar with Open Burning Permit requirements shall constantly attend burning operations until completely extinguished.
- All Open Burning shall take place after sunrise and be completed before sunset unless specifically permitted by the Thornton Fire Department.
- An Open Burning Permit may be revoked or suspended at any time if the Thornton Fire Department determines that any of the above mentioned requirements have not been followed or if it is determined that fire or smoke conditions constitute a health risk or a hazardous or potentially hazardous situation or condition.
- **LIABILITY FOR DAMAGE** – It is illegal to violate any requirements of an Open Burning Permit. If an uncontrolled fire occurs as a result of such violations, the applicant may be required to pay restitution, as well as other fines and costs. Any damages that occur as the result of an uncontrolled Open Burning fire shall be the responsibility of the Open Burning Permit holder.

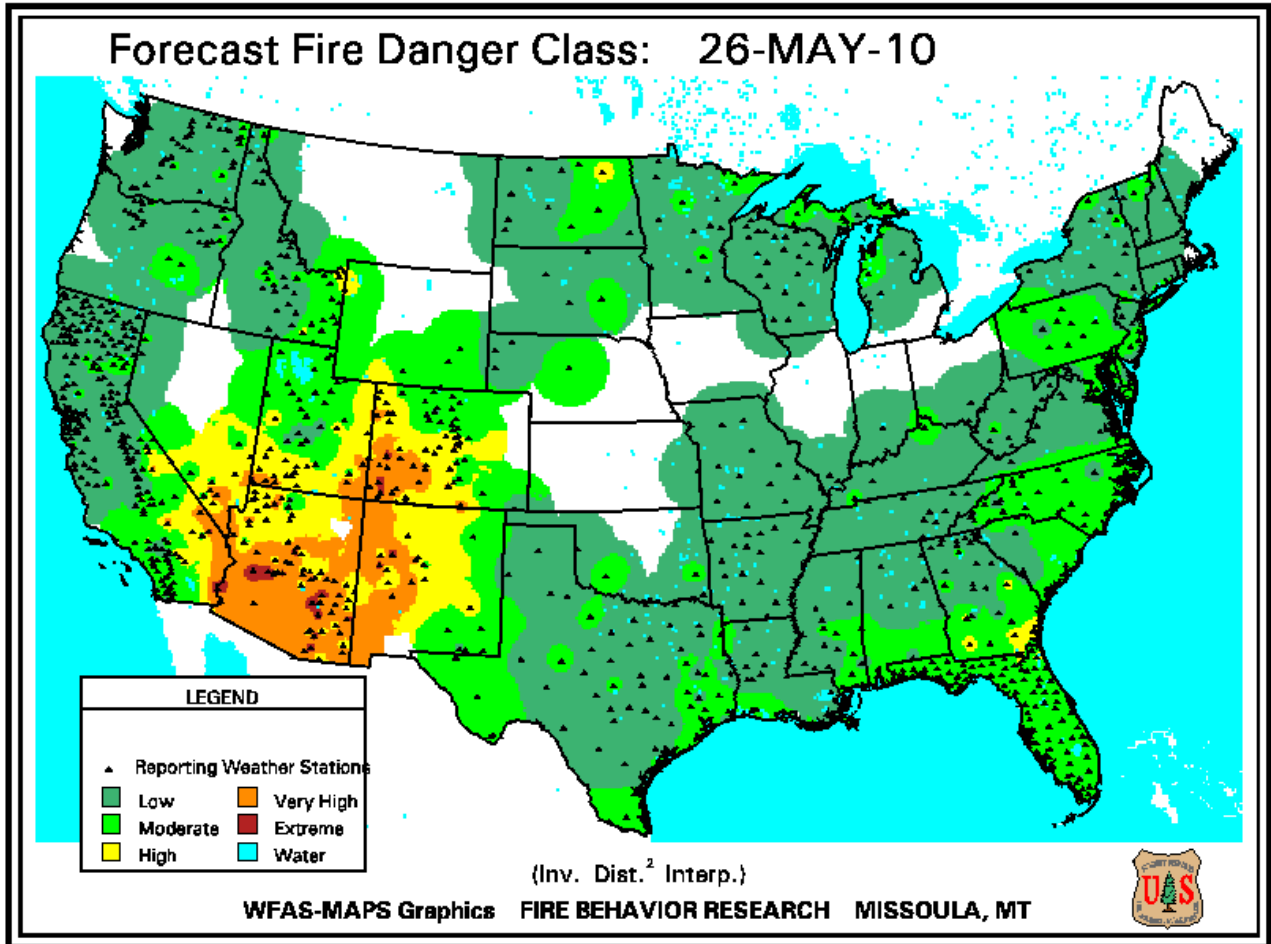
I have received, read, and understand the General Requirements stated herein for the issuance of an Open Burning Permit and agree to abide by all such requirements.

Signature of Applicant

TFD-FPD#008 (05-2010)

Date

FIRE DANGER MAP EXAMPLE



WEATHER EXAMPLE

Colorado Fire Weather Zone 240

Array

FIRE WEATHER PLANNING FORECAST FOR NORTHEAST AND NORTH CENTRAL COLORADO

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DENVER CO

407 AM MDT WED MAY 26 2010

.DISCUSSION...TODAY AND TONIGHT...A SOUTHWEST FLOW ALOFT WILL CONTINUE OVER THE CENTRAL ROCKIES. TEMPERATURES WILL BE WARMER TODAY. HUMIDITIES WILL BE SIMILAR TO YESTERDAYS READINGS OVER THE LOWER ELEVATIONS...BUT IN THE HIGH COUNTRY HUMIDITIES WILL BE LOWER. THERE WILL BE A CHANCE FOR THUNDERSTORMS TODAY...MAINLY OVER THE EASTERN PLAINS.

LONG TERM DISCUSSION...THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY...UNSEASONABLY WARM AIR WILL SPREAD ACROSS THE FORECAST REGION ON SOUTH TO SOUTHWEST WINDS AT THE SURFACE AND ALOFT. AS TEMPERATURES RISE HUMIDITIES ARE EXPECTED TO FALL POTENTIALLY ACCELERATING THE DRYING OF FUELS AND THEREBY INCREASING THE WILDLAND FIRE DANGER. THE VERY WARM TEMPERATURES BOTH DAY AND NIGHT WILL ALSO ACCELERATE THE HIGH COUNTRY SNOW MELT RESULTING IN FAST RUNOFF ON HIGH COUNTRY STREAMS AND CREEKS. EACH AFTERNOON AND EVENING THROUGH THE FIRST PART OF THE WEEKEND THERE WILL BE A SLIGHT CHANCE FOR AFTERNOON AND EVENING THUNDERSTORMS...WITH THE BEST CHANCE FOR STORMS SATURDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING WITH THE PASSAGE OF AN UPPER LEVEL LOW PRESSURE TROUGH AND SURFACE COLD FRONT.

...THUNDERSTORMS IMPLY STRONG GUSTY ERRATIC WINDS...
...ALL SURFACE WINDS ARE 20-FOOT...10-MINUTE AVERAGED WINDS...
...CWR IS CHANCE OF WETTING RAIN - 0.10 INCH OR MORE LIQUID...
...24 HR TRENDS ARE BASED ON AVERAGES OVER THE RESPECTIVE ZONE GROUPS AND MAY NOT MATCH THE ACTUAL FORECAST VALUES SHOWN IN THOSE GROUPS...

NORTH DOUGLAS COUNTY BELOW 6000 FEET/DENVER/WEST ADAMS AND ARAPAHOE COUNTIES/EAST BROOMFIELD COUNTY- INCLUDING AURORA...BRIGHTON...CITY OF DENVER...DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT...HIGHLANDS RANCH...LITTLETON...PARKER
407 AM MDT WED MAY 26 2010

.TODAY...

SKY/WEATHER.....PARTLY CLOUDY(50-60%). PATCHY FOG UNTIL 0900.
WIDELY SCATTERED THUNDERSTORMS AFTER 1200.

MAX TEMPERATURE.....72-78.

24 HR TREND.....4-7 DEGREES WARMER.

MIN HUMIDITY.....31-41%.

24 HR TREND.....LITTLE CHANGE.

20-FOOT WINDS.....VARIABLE LESS THAN 8 MPH BECOMING SOUTHEAST
13-20 MPH WITH GUSTS TO 30 MPH IN THE
AFTERNOON.

HAINES INDEX.....3 VERY LOW.

LAL.....1 UNTIL 1200...THEN 3.

CWR.....0 PERCENT UNTIL 1200...THEN 10 PERCENT.

10K FT FREE WINDS...SOUTHWEST 25-35 MPH.

MIXING HEIGHT.....8500-9500 FT AGL.

TRANSPORT WINDS.....LIGHT AND VARIABLE UNTIL 1200...THEN SOUTH
15-20 MPH.

SMOKE DISPERSAL.....POOR UNTIL 1200. EXCELLENT AFTER 1700.

.TONIGHT...

SKY/WEATHER.....PARTLY CLOUDY(40-50%). WIDELY SCATTERED
THUNDERSTORMS UNTIL 2400.

