



For Immediate Release
Contact: PIO Mike Page 244-1413

Spring 2008 Burn Season March 1- May 31 2008

It is that time of year again and we will soon see and feel the impact of another burn season. As Spring approaches in the Grand Valley, you should know that open burning is not the only option for cleaning irrigation ditches and getting rid of garden waste, small tree trimmings and weeds.

In an effort to promote the health of our residents and maintain the quality of our environment, the Grand Junction Fire Department strongly encourages residents to use alternatives to open burning. Each year, the Department responds to out-of-control weed fires that create unnecessary property loss and resource use. We are also seeing an increase in the number of emergency medical responses due to respiratory issues due to smoke from open burning.

Before burning, you are **REQUIRED** to obtain a burn permit. Grand Junction, Fruita and Clifton Fire Departments issue permits for their response areas. The Mesa County Health Department issues permits for all other areas in Mesa County. Burning is allowable only for dry weeds, garden waste, irrigation ditches, and tree or shrub trimmings less than 1" in diameter.

Alternatives to Burning

CONTACT THE CSU EXTENSION OFFICE, AT 244-1834 FOR COMPOSTING INFORMATION

The CSU Extension Office recommends that residents try composting as a beneficial option to burning. Composting involves the decomposition of organic materials (such as yard waste) and acts as a natural fertilizer to enrich existing soil.

THE GRAND JUNCTION FIRE DEPARTMENT CANNOT RELEASE, TRANSFER, PROVIDE ACCESS TO, OR REVEAL ANY PERSONAL HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED WITH THE ABOVE INCIDENT DUE TO OUR LEGAL OBLIGATION TO PROTECT PATIENT CONFIDENTIALITY.

**CONTACT THE MESA COUNTY COMPOSTING FACILITY
AT (970) 263-9319**

Mesa County welcomes public and commercial use of the Organic Materials Composting Facility as a site for discarding yard and garden wastes *free of charge*. The Facility is open Tuesday through Saturday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. The site is located just north of the Mesa County Landfill at 3071 Highway 50, Grand Junction.

**FOR RESIDENTIAL-ONLY TRASH
THAT IS ILLEGAL TO BURN**

Bring your items to the Mesa County Landfill, 3071 Highway 50, (970) 241-6846, on their free day, **April 12, 2008**, between 8:00 AM and 5:30 PM. This free day does NOT include tires, etc. There is a charge on all other dates.

**CONTACT YOUR REGULAR GARBAGE COLLECTION
AND DISPOSAL COMPANY FOR DETAILS
ON SCHEDULING A SPECIAL PICKUP**

Local garbage disposal companies support using their services as an alternative to burning.

CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION SPRING CLEAN-UP PROGRAM

The spring clean-up program for 2008 will be May 5th -10th for areas north of North Avenue and May 12th – 17th for areas south of North avenue (including the Redlands and Orchard Mesa). For more information call 244-1554 or go to the web site for the Utilities Department:

<http://www.gjcity.org/CityDeptWebPages/PublicWorksAndUtilities/StreetsTraffic/SpringCleanUp.htm>

**ALL BURNING IN THE GRAND JUNCTION FIRE PROTECTION
DISTRICT REQUIRES A BURN PERMIT**

Anyone burning without a permit may be issued a citation. If permit requirements are violated, the permit will be revoked, the fire will be put out, and a court summons issued. The permit holder may be fined up to \$1,000 and/or imprisoned for up to one year for each violation and held liable for fire fighting and/or property damage costs.

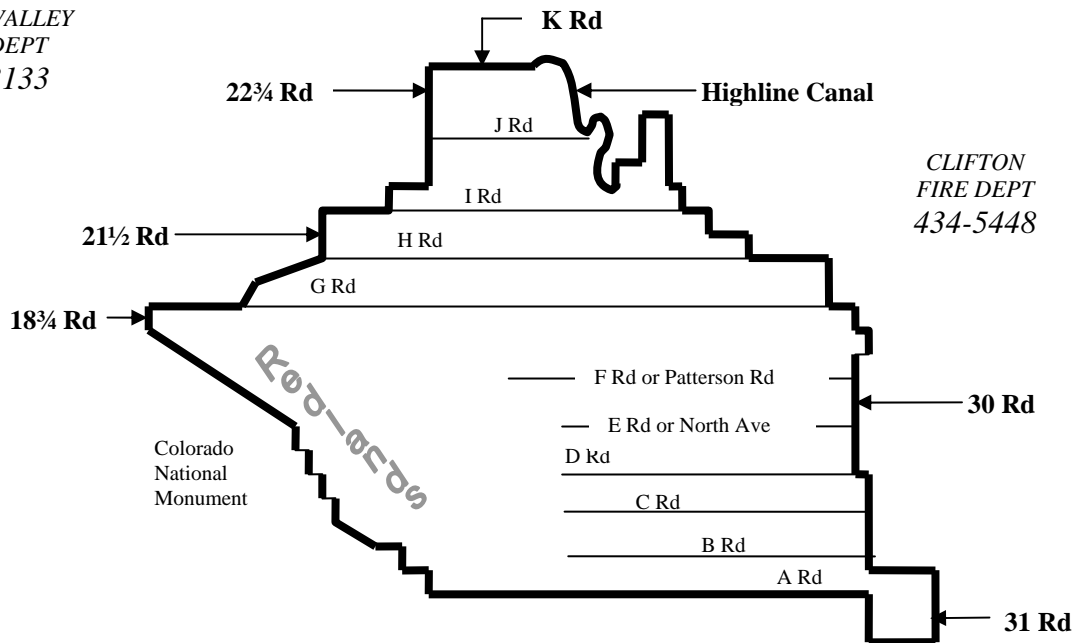
ACQUIRING YOUR GRAND JUNCTION BURN PERMIT

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There are four methods to obtain a validated open burn application (which is your permit) from the GRAND JUNCTION Fire Department in 2008. The location of the burn must be located within the Grand Junction Fire Department response district (see map below).

1. If you purchased a permit from the GRAND JUNCTION Fire Department in 2007, you should have received an application through the mail. Upon receipt of the application, complete and sign it, enclose a check for the appropriate amount, and **return both copies** to the Business Office address shown below. Your validated application (which is your open burn permit) will be returned to you by mail.
2. If you did not utilize the GRAND JUNCTION Fire Department burn permit program in 2007, contact the Fire Department Business Office at 970-244-1400 to have an application mailed to you. Upon receipt of the application, complete and sign it, enclose a check for the appropriate amount, and **return both copies** to the Business Office address shown below. Your validated application (which is your open burn permit) will be returned to you by mail.
3. You can print the application from the City's web site at www.gjcity.org. Click on Fire Department from the drop-down menu on the right or at the bottom of the page and in the big orange box click on Forms Fire Prevention, 2008 Open Burn Permit is at the bottom of the page.
4. You can also choose to purchase a burn permit directly from the GRAND JUNCTION Fire Department Business Office address shown below. Business Office hours are Monday – Friday, 7:30 am – 5:00 p.m. However, parking is limited.

LOWER VALLEY
FIRE DEPT
858-3133



BURN PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

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1. The permit holder is responsible for any damage incurred by his/her open burning activity.
2. Burning is permitted within daylight hours which are 2 hours after sunrise until 2 hours before sunset.
3. Burning is not permitted except during the Spring Season and the Fall Season.
4. An adult must constantly attend the fire and have their validated Burn Permit Application in their possession.
5. Burning of household trash, scrap lumber, or anything other than dry weeds, garden waste, irrigation ditches, and tree or shrub trimmings less than one inch in diameter is **NOT PERMITTED**.
6. *Burning of materials that cause a dense smoke or odor, such as **tires, lawn clippings, or leaves is NOT PERMITTED**.*
7. The following fire safety precautions shall be followed:
 - ✓ Have a water hose, fire extinguisher, or other appropriate water source available.
 - ✓ Keep fire **a minimum of 50 feet** from any structure (including combustible fences).
8. Do not burn when wind could cause the fire to get out of control.

THERE ARE TWO BURN SEASONS

Spring March 1-May 31, 2008
Fall September 1-October 31, 2008

Permits cost \$10.00 for each season (if sold separately) or you can purchase a combined season permit for \$15.00.

BUSINESS OFFICE MAILING ADDRESS:

**GJFD BURN PERMITS
330 S. 6TH STREET
GRAND JUNCTION, CO 81501**

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