



# PUBLIC

Kansas Department of Health and Environment  
Bureau of Air and Radiation  
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## **Compliance Open Burning of Waste Wood Technical Guidance Document - BAR 2000-01**

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The open burning of clean waste wood is regulated under the Kansas Air Quality Regulations. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) enforces regulations that prohibit the open burning of clean waste wood unless approval has been obtained from KDHE to conduct such burning. The KDHE has allowed such burning under specific conditions and guidelines. Clean waste wood is defined as meaning uncontaminated wood waste. Contaminated waste wood includes painted, stained or coated wood, chemically treated lumber for preservation, and engineered wood products such as plywood, oriented-strand or particle board. With rising landfill costs and the availability of suitable landfill sites, facilities are requesting approval to open burn their wood waste, as a means of disposal. This document discusses KDHE's position on the open burning of clean waste wood.

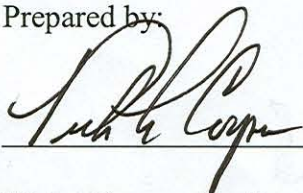
The purpose of the state open burning regulations is to prevent the release of air contaminants into the ambient air through prohibiting or controlling the amount and type of open burning conducted in the state. Typical air contaminants from open burning of clean waste wood include: particulate, PM<sub>10</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub>; carbon monoxide; sulfur oxides; nitrogen oxide; and total organic compounds. Stationary sources who open burn waste wood on a daily or frequent basis may be required to obtain a Kansas air operating permit, because the potential-to-emit from the burning may exceed the permitting threshold values.

K.A.R. 28-19-645, Open burning prohibited, states that a person shall not cause or permit the open burning of any waste, structures, vegetation, or any other materials except as authorized by K.A.R. 28-19-647 and K.A.R. 28-19-648.

K.A.R. 28-19-647, Exceptions to prohibition, sets forth the types of open burning that are exempt from the regulations. This regulation contains a provision that KDHE may approve such open burning operations when it has been demonstrated that burning is necessary, in the public's interest, and is not prohibited by any local government or local fire authority. K.A.R. 28-19-647(c) describes the types of open burning operations that are considered to be necessary or in the public's interest. These include: the use of safety flares for disposal of flammable gases; fires related to the training of government or industrial personnel in fire fighting procedures; fires set for the removal of dangerous or hazardous liquid materials; open burning of trees and brush from non-agriculture land clearing operations; and open burning of clean wood waste from construction projects carried out at the construction site. These types of open burning operations are generally a one-time burn of a limited quantity of clean waste wood.

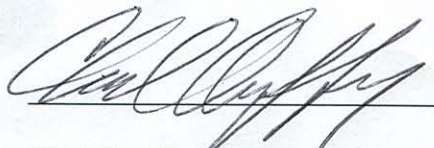
The overall intent of the open burning regulations is to reduce the amount of burning conducted in the state. Stationary sources that desire to open burn waste wood on a frequent basis or large quantities of waste wood must pursue other methods for the disposal of their waste materials. The KDHE recommends recycling of these materials where possible. In instances where this may not be feasible, the alternatives are installing a KDHE approved incinerator or air curtain destructor, or disposal of waste wood by landfilling the waste materials.

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