

## Regulations may apply

Backyard burning is permissible in some towns but not others. Smithers, Burns Lake and Houston have active or draft bylaws to reduce emissions from backyard burning and woodburning appliances.

On both public (Crown) and private land, provincial regulations also apply for larger fires.

- **Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation** - contact the Ministry of Environment at 250-847-7260 for more information or visit <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/air/particulates/agtobsc.html>
- **Wildfire Act and Regulations** – in the Hazeltons, contact the Ministry of Forests and Range at 250-846-9851 for information on rules and the FireSmart program. Visit [www.for.gov.bc.ca/protect/burning/resource.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/protect/burning/resource.htm)

Contact the BVL D Airshed Management Society at:

Phone (250)847-1672  
Toll-free 1-877-847-4701  
Facilitator: Laurie Gallant

Bag 5000  
3726 Alfred Street  
Smithers BC V0J 2N0  
Attn: Ben Weinstein

[www.cleanairplan.ca](http://www.cleanairplan.ca)

## Safe, Clean Burning Checklist

- ✓ Plan your burn for a safe time of the year - the fall or just after green-up in the spring.
- ✓ Burn only during safe conditions - not windy and after a rain.
- ✓ Stay with the fire until it is completely out.
- ✓ Always have a garden hose available to extinguish fire.
- ✓ Avoid burning near buildings, trees or grass.
- ✓ Keep fire at a controllable size.
- ✓ Never burn garbage or prohibited materials such as plastic, treated wood, newspaper, junk mail, and tires.
- ✓ Burn only during good venting conditions – call the Skeena Region Air Quality Information Line at 1-888-281-2992
- ✓ Burn only dry, seasoned organic materials. Stumps and branches over 8” in diameter should be dried for a minimum of two years.
- ✓ Make smaller piles, with good air ventilation for efficient burning.

*BVL D AMS thanks the Village of Hazelton, Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Forests and Range for reviewing brochure content but accepts full responsibility for errors and omissions.*

## Residential Outdoor Burning



**Hazelton's Guide to staying out of trouble and being a good neighbour...**

A message from:



## ***But we've burned for years...***

Burning garbage, yard waste and even grass has been a family tradition for many folks around the valley. We've all seen or heard stories about fires gone out of control, and some of us are also aware of how smoke can affect our health.

### **Is there a problem with burning garbage?**

The nature and variety of garbage has changed over time. In the last few generations plastic packaging, disposable items, and junk mail have increased a tremendous amount. The chemicals in this type of garbage do not disappear when they are burned, but they do change forms.



### **If you burn it, we all breathe it!**

Home garbage fires release smoke laced with a host of nasty toxins into the air. Burning any waste produces a large number of pollutants, including dioxins. Home garbage fires smoulder and burn at temperatures that create prime conditions for the formation of dioxins.

**Smoke from burning garbage has been linked to CANCER, ASTHMA, DIABETES and INFERTILITY to name a few documented effects.**

## **Burning garbage can affect your health more than you think.**

The immediate effect of smoke from garbage burning can be quite obvious. The particulates can trigger respiratory health problems, both acute and chronic.

Toxic chemicals released from burning garbage contaminate our air, water, and land. Dioxins for example, settle in the food we eat, ending up stored in our fat. They are known to cause many disorders, diseases, and defects – especially in babies.

### **What about burning yard waste and grass?**

Burning should be a last resort – smoke particulates even from organic materials pose a serious health risk. We encourage alternatives to burning such as flail mowing, chipping, and composting.

### **What about the cost?**

Many residents burn garbage and yard waste to avoid garbage handling fees and the hassle of hauling their material to the landfill or transfer station.

The cost and inconvenience are much less troublesome than poisoning your family and neighbours...or getting fined.

## ***Alternatives to Open Burning***

**Flail mowing** is for situations where a normal lawn mower cannot be used and where the cut can be rougher. A flail mower can cut long grass and small scrub efficiently, and is therefore an ideal tool for road bank mowing and similar jobs.

**Chipping** of woody materials creates a useful landscaping material. Landscaping companies or tree removal services could be hired for a bi-annual neighbourhood or community chipping event.

**Composting** in your backyard or using local municipal options where offered may be a more practical option for some homeowners. For tips on backyard **composting, mulching, and grasscycling** visit your town office or try these sites: [www.rcbc.bc.ca](http://www.rcbc.bc.ca) and [www.compost.org](http://www.compost.org).

Remember to be **bear smart** when setting up your compost pile. Check here for tips: <http://www.bearsmart.com/bearsBackyard/ManagingAttractants.html>

***Landfilling what you can't recycle or compost is a much better choice than burning.***