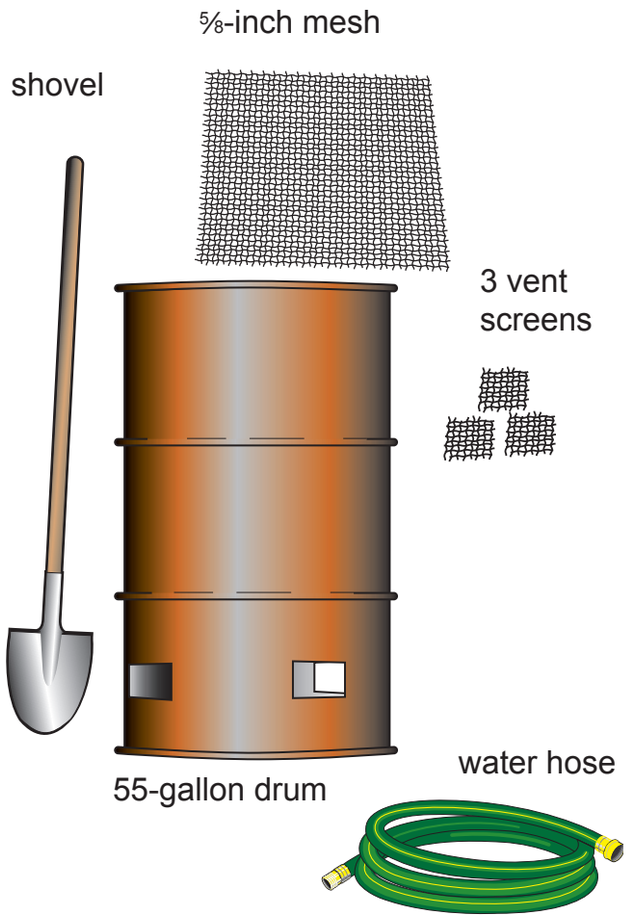
REMEMBER

Burn barrels are not permitted within the city limits of some jurisdictions.

Please check with your nearest fire authorities for regulations.

Materials and Tools for Safe Burning



To Report a Fire call 911 or 1.800.237.3633

For Current Fire Information Call 907.356.5511 or visit http://fire.ak.blm.gov

Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group

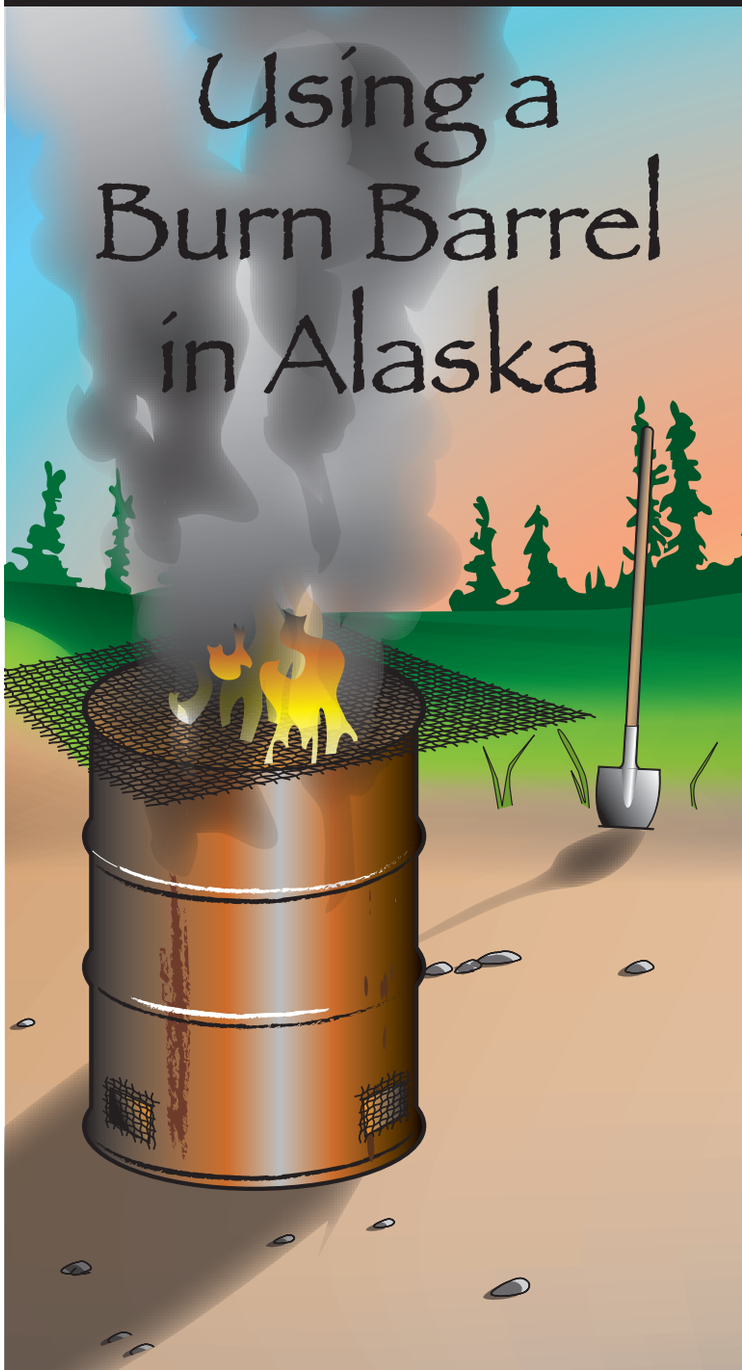
http://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php

Illustrations by Russell Mitchell, Inkworks

v. 2008

Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group

Using a Burn Barrel in Alaska



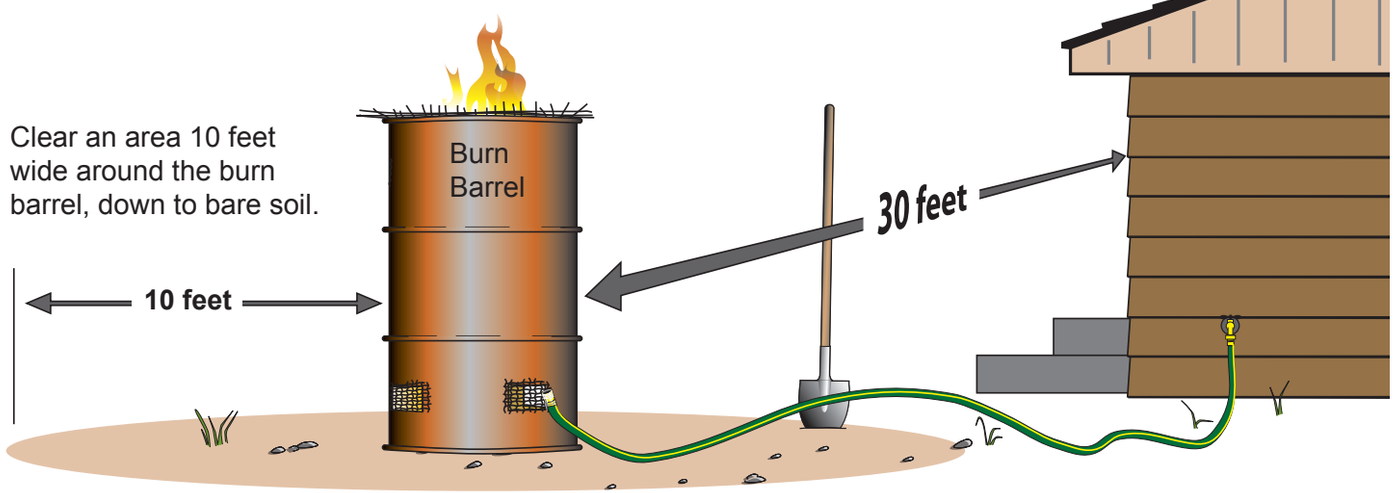
Many people in Alaska use burn barrels for burning their trash instead of going to a landfill or dump. Often a burn barrel is the only way people in a remote areas can dispose of their trash quickly and safely.

Burn Barrel Guidelines

- ❑ Do not put plastics, garbage, rubber, styrofoam, asbestos or any items that do not readily burn into your burn barrel.
- ❑ Clean wood, paper, and unwaxed cardboard can be burned in many communities.
- ❑ The material you burn should be as dry as possible; feed the fire in small amounts to make sure they are completely burned.
- ❑ Keep the fire in the burn barrel going strong so that your items will burn thoroughly and completely. This will result in a cleaner, less smoky burn.
- ❑ Do not allow the burn barrel to smolder, especially overnight. Burn in your burn barrel only when the wind speed is less than 10 miles per hour.
- ❑ Remember: anyone using a burn barrel is responsible for a fire that escapes as a result of negligence. If you start a fire, you are responsible for it until the fire is completely out!
- ❑ A fire in your burn barrel must be put out immediately if a health official or public safety authority asks you to. Be sure to have the appropriate tools and water on hand to be able to do so quickly.
- ❑ Be aware that fire officials may close an area to burning. Check with your local authorities before you begin to use your burn barrel to find out if there are special burning requirements.

Basic Burn Barrel Design

- ❑ Choose a clean metal barrel in good condition. A 55-gallon drum size is recommended.
- ❑ Cut out the top of the barrel.
- ❑ Cut three evenly spaced, three-inch square draft vents around the lower section of the barrel.
- ❑ Cover the vent openings with ⅝-inch woven metal mesh screen, and make a cover for the top with the same screening.
- ❑ Locate the burn barrel at least 30 feet away from any structure and 50 feet away from any underground or above-ground utility corridor.
- ❑ Make sure there is a water source nearby.
- ❑ Clear an area ten feet wide around the burn barrel down to bare soil.



Burning in Alaska is more regulated in certain areas than in others and at certain times of the year. Generally the larger cities and villages and some boroughs have burning regulations. The Alaska Division of Forestry's burning regulations cover most of the lands along the road system. Before you begin burning, check with your local fire department or Division of Forestry office for current information on burning regulations.

Occasionally the fire conditions become so severe that all outside burning is suspended. This is called a "burn suspension." These burn suspensions can be specific to certain areas or statewide. It is important that you know when a burn suspension is in effect for the area you want to burn in. Burn suspensions are advertised on statewide television and radio stations. The local fire department and the Division of Forestry office will also have current information on any burn suspension that is in effect.

Please be careful with fire.

Check with local authorities about any regulations that may apply in your area.