



Burn Permits

Division of Forestry, Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Burn Barrel Specifications

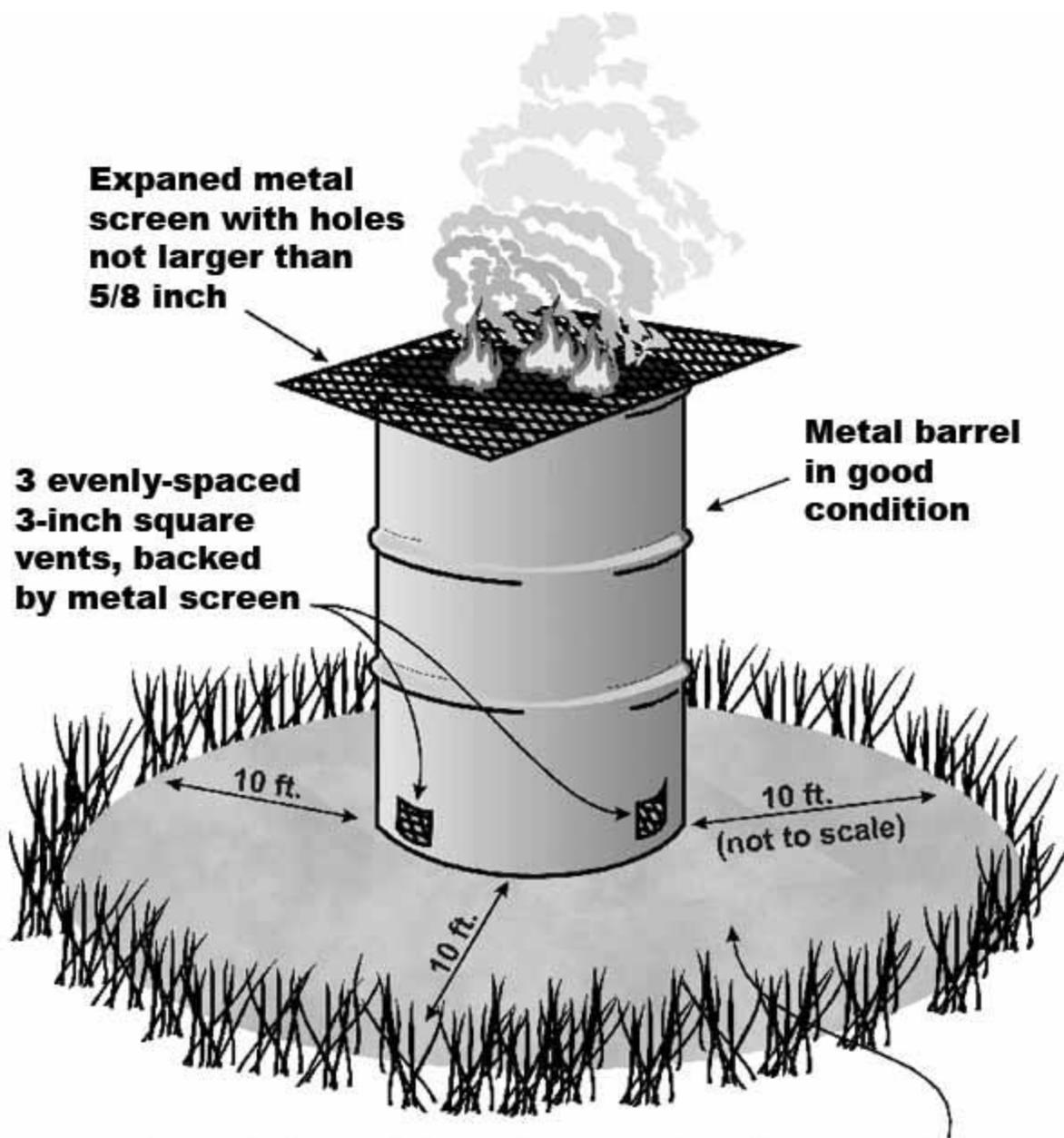
Burn Barrel Guidelines

- Materials that should not be put in a burn barrel are: plastics, garbage, rubber, Styrofoam, asbestos, and things that do not burn easily.
- Clean wood, paper, and unwaxed cardboard can be burned in many communities.
- The material you burn in your burn barrel should be as dry as possible; feed the fire paper and other items in small amounts to make sure they are completely burned.
- Keep the flames in the burn barrel going strong so that things will burn more 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 liable for a wildfire 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.
- Attend fire until it is out.
- Burn barrels are not permitted within some city limits. Please check with your nearest fire authorities for regulations.

Basic Burn Barrel Design

- Choose a clean metal barrel in good condition. A 55 gallon drum size is recommended.
- Cut three evenly-spaced, three-inch square draft vents around the lower section of the barrel (see diagram below).
- You can also cut a row of draft vents around the mid-section and near the top of the barrel.
- Cover all vent openings with 5/8 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.

Burn barrels are not permitted within the city limits of some jurisdictions. Please check with your nearest fire authorities for regulations.



Expanded metal screen with holes not larger than 5/8 inch

Metal barrel in good condition

3 evenly-spaced 3-inch square vents, backed by metal screen

10 ft.

10 ft.

(not to scale)

10 ft.

Ground cleared down to mineral soil or gravel at least 10 feet on each side of incinerator