

ROUTT COUNTY WILDLAND FIRE MAC ADVISORY GROUP
Box 773598, Steamboat Springs, CO 80477
970-870-5551 Fax: 970-879-3992 cvale@co.routt.co.us

PRESS RELEASE

OPEN BURNING IN ROUTT COUNTY

The Routt County Wildland Fire MAC Advisory Group consisting of Routt County Emergency Management, U.S. Forest Service, Colorado State Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Steamboat Springs Fire-Rescue, Oak Creek, Yampa, North Routt, and West Routt Fire Departments, would like to mention some of the wildland fire situations facing us in Routt County.

Now that spring is here, agricultural burning is becoming more and more prevalent. Agricultural burning plays a vital role in the agricultural and ranching community by removing agricultural refuse and replacing nutrients in the soil. We are asking Routt County residents to do the following to avoid potential problems or miscommunication with your fire department:

AGRICULTURAL BURNING:

- 1) If you are burning agricultural refuse, contact Routt County Communications (879-1110) for a *Courtesy Open Burning Notification*. This involves the size of area to be burned, location, time and property involved. There is no fee charged.
- 2) If you are planning a fire that is not agricultural or not recreational, contact Environmental Health (879-0185) for and *Air Quality Permit*.

RECREATONAL BURNING:

- 1) Open burning is not permitted except for approved and permitted recreational fires (permit from Steamboat Springs Fire Dept. – 879-2060 x 216) (permit from Oak Creek Fire Dept. – 736-8104) (permit from West Routt Fire Protection District – 276-3511). This is due to the close proximity of multiple structures as well as the density of people with respiratory problems affected/aggravated by smoke.

If you live outside of these areas contact Routt County Communications (879-1110).

Be aware of weather conditions for burn-day and keep in mind that conditions may change with wind velocities usually increasing in the afternoon. Spring and early summer can be windy in Routt County and can cause fire to burn out of control. Please inform authorities as well as neighbors of your burn, and most importantly, burn responsible and to always stay with your fire.