



Florida Division of Forestry  
Loxahatchee Ranger Station

**Information relating to  
Agriculture Burning Permits**



**The Division of Forestry**

The mission of the Florida Division of Forestry (DOF) is to protect and manage Florida's forest resources through a stewardship ethic to assure these resources will be available for future generations.

Loxahatchee Ranger Station is located in the central part of Palm Beach County on "D" Road ½ mile north of Southern Blvd in Loxahatchee Groves. There is also a satellite station located in Belle Glade on State Road 80.

**Applying for an Agriculture Burn**

In order to qualify for an agriculture burn permit you must meet the following requirements:

1. Be a licensed agriculture venture (*nursery, vegetable farming, cattle, horse farm, etc.*)
2. Burning Material: An individual whose property is zoned agricultural/residential or an individual who has an agriculture exemption on their property from tax collectors / property assessor's office does not necessarily have the right to an agriculture burning permit. They must meet other requirements during an on-site inspection.

### **Requirements for an Agricultural Burn Permit:**

1. Open burning of vegetation material originating on site between the hours 9:00 am and one hour before sunset at the same day (except fires for cold or frost protection) provided that authorization is secured from the DOF prior to burning.
2. The DOF may allow open burning at other times when there is reasonable assurance that atmospheric and meteorological conditions in the vicinity of the burning will allow good and proper diffusion and disbursement of air pollutants and ready control of such fires within the designation boundaries.
3. All open burning must be attended at all times.
4. The size and number of burning pile shall be dictated by the materials to be burned and the time available for burning.
5. Open burning of wooden material or vegetation generated by a land clearing operation or the demolition of a structure is allowed provided that certain conditions are met.

### **Procedures for On-Site Inspections:**

1. Contact DOF Loxahatchee Ranger Station.
2. Set up an appointment for an on-site inspection.
3. Agriculture open burning application can be obtained at the following locations:
  - a. Local Fire Station 21
  - b. Loxahatchee Ranger Station
4. Inspection of site.

If you wish to do an agriculture burn west of the red line, you must first have an on-site inspection by the DOF than obtain a permit from your closest Fire Station (Fire Station 21)

For land clearing other than AGRICULTURE, you must contact the Palm Beach County Health Department.

### **Contact Information:**

**Florida Division of Forestry**  
Loxahatchee Ranger Station  
600 D Road  
Loxahatchee Groves, FL 33470  
Phone: (561)-791-4725

**Palm Beach County**  
Health Department  
826 Evernia Street  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
Phone: (561)-840-4500

# Florida's Regulations and Setbacks for Agricultural Open Burning

## Regulations:

- Authorization must be obtained by your approving authority on a daily basis before starting any burn (in Palm Beach County you must call your local fire station who issued your permit.)
- Burning is allowed from 9am until 1 hour before sunset on approved days; piles will be extinguished with no visible flame showing.
- Burns must be attended at all times, and you must have the capability to suppress and extinguish the burn at any time.
- Vegetation to be burned must have been generated on burn authorized property and not brought in from another location.
- There will be no burning of green vegetation and **anything** other than vegetation will not be burned (example: treated wood, plastics, metals and rubber)

## Setbacks:

- Burn piles must be at least 50 feet from any wild lands, brush or combustible structure.
- Burn piles must be at least 100 feet from any paved or public roadway.
- Burn piles must be at least 100 feet from landowners building and 300 feet from any other occupied structure.
- Non Residential Pile Burning without an air curtain incinerator must be set back 1000 feet from any occupied structure and 100 feet from wild lands, brush or combustible structure.

## Recommendations:

- Keep piles and smoke away from power lines
- Prepare area around piles by bringing surface down to soil; the larger the piles the larger the prepared area

*Comment: In the event of changing weather conditions and or smoke complaints, your authorized burn can be shut down and extinguished for the day.*