

Twin Falls Regional Office

Air Quality Awareness Week

May 2–6, 2016

Open burning of crop residue is a method used by growers in Idaho to improve yields, reduce the need for herbicides and pesticides, reduce fire hazards, and control disease, weeds, and pests. Idaho's Crop Residue Burning Program is designed to protect public health while enabling growers to burn under specific conditions. The program's major components are

- **Timing:** Air quality must be considered before burning can take place. Burning may only occur on days when air quality is good, as measured by pollutant levels, and is expected to continue to be good.
- **Location:** Proximity to sensitive areas (towns, schools, roads, hospitals, canyon rims, local seasonal events, etc.) is considered before burning can take place. Burning baled material like old hay or straw is not allowed.
- **Permits:** Growers must obtain authorization from DEQ before burning by registering for a burn permit (known as a Permit-by-Rule). Detailed information on when and where the burn is to take place is required. A fee per acre burned is also required. Burners must also obtain other permits, if required by other agencies.
- **Training:** Growers must be trained in proper burning techniques and good smoke management practices before they can burn and must attend training at least once every 5 years.

DEQ evaluates air quality and meteorological conditions to determine whether burning is permissible under the permits. Burning may be allowed if pollutant levels are within an acceptable range and smoke is expected to disperse with minimal impact to public health and safety, including special consideration for institutions with sensitive populations (e.g., hospitals and schools).

For more information, visit

deq.idaho.gov/air-quality/burning/crop-residue-burning/
deq.idaho.gov/air-quality/monitoring/daily-reports-and-forecasts.aspx

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