

Municipal Solid Wastes Suitable for Open Burning

Municipal solid wastes (MSW) that are conditionally suitable for open burning are paper products, paperboard packaging and untreated wood wastes only.

Conditions for this burning are:

- * The principle of source reduction should be utilized to reduce, reuse and recycle materials otherwise bound for landfill.
- * The appropriate materials are segregated and burned in a controlled manner and site which is separate from the working landfill so that the fire cannot spread. Standard burning conditions shall apply to burning such as on days where winds are light, blowing away from the community, in manageable volumes so that fires do not get out of control, having applicable permits and managed by an authorized, qualified person from the community. These are conditions also recommended in the Municipal and Community Affairs Solid Waste Modified Landfill Guidelines.
- * Building demolition wastes should not be burned unless they have been sorted to remove non-wood wastes such as roofing materials, electrical wire, plastics, asbestos and other non-wood wastes.
- * Waste wood treated with preservatives such as creosote, pentachlorophenol or heavy metal solutions shall not be burned. Examples of treated wood materials include railroad ties, telephone/hydro poles, pilings, cribbing and foundations.
- * Following a review of the specific landfill location, additional local conditions or controls may be applied.

Where geographic conditions do not allow for the proper operation of a modified landfill, such as because of limited availability of cover materials and unsuitable ground conditions, communities may have to assess other alternatives of MSW management ie: balefill, incineration. The open burning of non-segregated MSW remains an unacceptable option for the management of MSW. Continuation of this practise should not be allowed unless a site-specific assessment fails to identify a feasible and practical alternative. At that point some form of segregation will be required.