

## Fire Fighters Guidelines: Burning Buildings

Burning of structures for the **bona fide instruction and training** of firefighters is permitted when conducted:

- under the **direct control and supervision of qualified instructors**, and
- with a **written objective** for the training.

Structures must be **first emptied of waste materials** that are not part of the training objective.

**Special and hazardous waste** such as asbestos-containing materials, mercury-containing materials (e.g. thermostats, fluorescent lights) and other hazardous materials must be removed prior to burn.

**Non-wood components** such as asphalt shingles, vinyl siding, vinyl-coated wiring should be removed if not part of the written training objective.

A **burn permit** must be obtained and measures must be taken to prevent contamination of ground and surface water.

Remaining **debris and ash** must be disposed of at a licensed solid waste or hazardous waste facility, or buried on-site, above the water table and covered with at least 18 inches of soil.

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# Never Burn

These materials produce especially dangerous smoke and ash and should be removed prior to burning:

treated wood  
plastics  
styrofoam  
wire insulation  
vinyl siding  
asbestos-containing materials  
rubber  
metals  
food wastes  
chemicals  
trash  
asphalt shingles  
paper  
cardboard  
mattresses  
furniture  
tires  
tar  
paints  
solvents  
sludge  
insulation  
other solid and liquid wastes

Call a licensed solid waste transporter to safely dispose of construction and demolition debris at a licensed solid waste disposal facility. Contact the DEP for a list of licensed transporters:  
1-800-452-1942

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