



COLORADO
Office of Communications
Department of Public Health & Environment

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

COVID-19 MEDIA LINE: 303-900-2849 (Please leave a message)

Email: media_info@state.co.us

State officials discourage open burning during COVID-19 response

Denver (March 24): Officials from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) urge Coloradans not to engage in open burning activities during the current COVID-19 response.

The COVID-19 virus poses a particular threat to individuals with a history of heart or respiratory illness. Smoke from open burns could put a strain on already vulnerable populations. “Open burning” is any fire outdoors where smoke is released directly into the open air without first passing through a chimney or smokestack.

“In this challenging time, it’s important that we look out for each other,” said Scott Landes, air quality meteorologist at the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division at CDPHE. “We are strongly urging Coloradans to hold off on open burning while the state responds to the COVID-19 virus. Please be considerate of your neighbors, especially those who are in uniquely vulnerable populations.”

Colorado requires that individuals acquire a permit before engaging in open burning. Details on permit requirements can be found on the [department website](#). State air quality officials will continue to monitor the COVID-19 response and will issue additional guidance or restrictions based on the best available evidence.

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