



# Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department

*Percy Golden II, Director/Fire Chief*

515 North Julia Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32202

(904) 255-3280

[www.myjfrd.com](http://www.myjfrd.com)

Updated April 21, 2026

## FAQ: OUTDOOR BURNING IN DUVAL COUNTY

### Can I have a fire in my backyard?

*Jacksonville Municipal Code Section 420.201*

Outdoor burning is prohibited without a permit in Duval County. This is the law year-round, not just during dry conditions.

Only very limited activities are allowed without a permit: small campfires for recreation, cooking fires for outdoor food preparation, and warming fires for outdoor workers. These fires must not produce excessive smoke.

**Due to the current severe drought and elevated wildfire risk, all outdoor burning is prohibited.**

### Can I burn yard waste, leaves, or brush?

*Jacksonville Municipal Code Section 420.201*

**Due to the current severe drought and elevated wildfire risk, all outdoor burning is prohibited.**

### What is a bonfire, and how do I get a permit?

*Jacksonville Municipal Code Section 420.202*

**Due to the current severe drought and elevated wildfire risk, all outdoor burning is prohibited.**

### Has JFRD issued a burn ban?

*Jacksonville Municipal Code Sections, 420.202 (e)*

As of April 21, 2026, Director/Fire Chief Percy Golden II has issued a burn ban, prohibiting all bonfires and open burning in Duval County until further notice.

### Why is outdoor burning discouraged right now?

Duval County is experiencing **extreme drought**. Current conditions create extreme fire risk, dead dry vegetation, high winds, and thousands of areas where homes meet vegetation. One spark can start a fire that spreads in minutes.

### What if I see smoke or an unattended fire?

Call 911 immediately. Outdoor fires can spread rapidly under current dry, windy conditions.

### Can I burn for land clearing or agricultural purposes?

Agricultural and land-clearing burns have separate requirements and may require authorization from Florida Forest Service. Visit [www.fdacs.gov](http://www.fdacs.gov) or contact Florida Forest Service.



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**Bottom line. A burn ban is in effect for Duval County. Keep your family and neighbors safe, limit any activity that causes sparks outdoors.**

## What should I do when wildfire smoke comes into my area?

When wildfires burn near you, smoke can reach your community. Wildfire smoke is a mix of gases and fine particles from burning trees and plants, buildings, and other material. Wildfire smoke can make anyone sick, but **people with asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), or heart disease, or who are pregnant, children, and first responders are especially at risk.**

Breathing in smoke can affect you right away, causing:

- Coughing
- Trouble breathing
- Wheezing
- Asthma attacks
- Stinging eyes
- Scratchy throat
- Runny nose
- Irritated sinuses
- Headaches
- Tiredness
- Chest pain
- Fast heartbeat

## How can I protect myself against smoke and ash before, during, and after a wildfire?

- prioritize staying indoors with windows and doors closed,
- setting air conditioning to recirculate mode,
- and using portable HEPA air cleaners.
- If you must go outside, wear a properly fitted N95 or P100 respirator mask to filter fine particles, as cloth or surgical masks do not provide adequate protection

## What emergency supplies should I gather?

- A respirator filters out smoke or ash before you can breathe it in. Children ages 2 years and older can wear respirators and masks. However, NIOSH Approved respirators (N95) do not come in suitable sizes for very young children (under 2 years).
- Remember the needs of children; individuals with medical conditions like asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), or heart disease; or who are pregnant.



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Image from cdc.gov

## How do I keep wildfire smoke outside?

- Choose a room you can close off from outside air.
- Set up a portable air cleaner or a filter to keep the air in this room cleaner even when it's smoky outdoors or in the rest of your home.
- Make a plan to keep wildfire smoke out of schools or commercial buildings.

## HOW DO I TRACK WILDFIRES NEAR ME AND REMAIN JAXREADY?

- AirNow's "Fire and Smoke Map" has a map of fires throughout North America.
- NOAA's "Fire weather outlook" page maps fire watches and warnings.
- Listen to the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio for emergency alerts.