# Open Burning WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

# LEARN BEFORE YOU BURN

# What is Open Burning?

Open burning means the burning of materials in such a manner that smoke is released directly into the air without going through a stack or chimney.



Open burning includes activities such as pile burning, prescribed fire burning, and burning using an Air Curtain Incinerator.

#### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Escaped yard waste from burn piles is the leading cause of wildfires in Florida.

Smoke particulates from burning yard waste can cause serious health problems including asthma and lung disease.

### What are the Health Risks?

The biggest health threat from smoke is from fine particles, also called fine particulate matter or PM2.5. These microscopic particles can get into your eyes and respiratory system, where they may cause burning eyes, runny nose, and illnesses, such as bronchitis.



Exposure to these pollutants can worsen existing heart and lung conditions. When exposed to high levels of particle pollution, people with existing lung disease may not be able to breathe as deeply or vigorously as they normally would. They may experience symptoms such as coughing and shortness of breath. Healthy people also may experience these effects, although they are unlikely to experience more serious effects.



Sign up for Air Quality Alerts at LeonCountyFL.gov/Alerts

#### Help Keep the Air Clean

Open burning impacts air quality in our community, but there are alternatives to dispose of yard waste.



#### **OTHER WAYS TO MANAGE YARD WASTE**

- ✓ Bring yard and household waste to the nearest Rural and Solid Waste Center.
- ✓ Mulch leaves into garden beds, which will build soil health.
- Compost yard waste in your backyard or a community compost.
- Limbs cut to less than 6 feet can be picked up by Waste Pro's curbside service.



# RURAL AND SOLID WASTE SERVICE CENTER LOCATIONS

Visit a Rural or Solid Waste Service Center to dispose of yard waste.

Solid Waste Facility 7550 Apalachee Pkwy | 850.606.1800

**Woodville** 549 Henry Jones Rd | 850.488.9099

**Ft. Braden** 2485 East Joe Thomas Rd | 850.488.9119

#### Miccosukee

13051 Miccosukee Rd | 850.922.0097