

The following is a list of possible actions that can be taken to address concerns for open-air burning. These options were weighed by considering citizen impact, ability of citizens to comply, environmental impacts, fiscal impacts, staff impact, staff capacity, and likelihood of successful implementation. A more thorough analysis on these same considerations would need to be conducted to fully vet each of these options before deciding on implementation. On the surface, many seem viable, but initial consideration has identified concerns leading staff to forgo recommending the options listed below at this time:

- Require an inspection/Fire Marshal presence prior to the ignition of any burn pile, each time it is lit:
  - Significant impact on staff workload and/or re-prioritization of existing priorities:
    - Using the roughly 40-50 commercial permits/annually as an example:
      - Permits are for 60 days.
      - Due to travel and ignition process, roughly 1- 2 hrs. commitment.
      - 2400-4800 staff hrs./annually to achieve for commercial open-air burning alone.
      - This calculated impact does not include any other type of open-air burning.
- Increase enforcement efforts by patrolling neighborhoods and rural areas to enforce County Code and State Law on open-air burning:
  - This option requires a paradigm shift from our current complaint driven model to a more proactive model, however, the scope of the problem may not justify the paradigm switch.
    - Between 2011 and 2018 open-air burning complaints accounted for 69 (32%) of the 214 total complaints investigated by the Office of the Fire Marshal:
      - A majority of the open-air burning complaints were related to commercial open-air burning (40 of the 69). Recent changes in County Code have been enacted to address issues identified in these commercial burning complaints.
      - A total of about 30 complaints were received over the seven-year period related to non-commercial burns (an average of less than five each year).
- Ban all yard maintenance open-air burning (option to exclude the certified open burn program):
  - Incentivize alternatives by providing vouchers or other cost reduction methods (ie. waive fees at the Ivy Material Utilization Center).
  - Promote alternatives (chipping, mulching, hauling).
  - Though this will solve issues associated with open burning, it may create other issues associated with trucking, noise, and decreased property maintenance (relative to fire load) particularly for those with less means to handle maintenance otherwise.
  - The impact of the Certified Burn Program and yard maintenance burning is smaller in magnitude than commercial burning. Is banning CBP and Yard maintenance burning while allowing commercial burning a concern?
  - Staff impact will vary depending on options desired and scope of ban.
- Change the Certified Burn Program (see Attachment B):
  - Increase or decrease the scope, stop the program, or change the length of time between certification.
  - Relatively easy implementation – process change.
  - The CBP is a successful program – only 2 complaints associated with program since 2001, which were easily resolved with additional education.
  - Unless the program is stopped, changes to this program will not decrease the number of burns conducted each year.