

Municipal Solid Wastes Suitable for Open Burning

Municipal solid wastes (MSW) that are conditionally suitable for open burning are paper products, paperboard packing and untreated wood wastes only.

Conditions for this burning are:

1. The principle of source reduction should be utilized to reduce, reuse and recycle materials otherwise bound for landfill.
2. The appropriate materials are segregated and burned in a controlled manner and at a controlled site which is separate from the working landfill so that the fire cannot spread.
3. Standard burning conditions shall apply, such as burning on days where winds are light and blowing away from the community.
4. Materials are burned in manageable volumes so that fires do not get out of control.
5. Having applicable permits for burning.
6. Managed by authorized, qualified personnel from the community.
7. The above conditions are also recommended in the NWT Municipal and Community Affairs Solid Waste Modified Landfill Guidelines, which have been adopted for Nunavut.

Building demolition wastes should not be burned unless they have been sorted to remove non-wood waste such as roofing materials, electrical wire, plastics, asbestos and other non-wood wastes.

Waste wood treated with preservatives such as creosote, pentachlorophenol or heavy metal solutions shall not be burned. Examples of treated wood materials include railroad ties, telephone/hydro poles, pilings, cribbing and foundations.

Following a review of the specific landfill location, additional local conditions or controls may be applied.

Where geographic conditions do not allow for the proper operation of a modified landfill, such as limited availability of cover materials and unsuitable ground conditions, communities may have to assess other alternatives of MSW management i.e.: balefill and/or incineration.

The open burning of non-segregated MSW remains an unacceptable option for the management of MSW. Continuation of this practice should not be allowed unless a site-specific assessment fails to identify a feasible and practical alternative. At this point, some form of segregation will be required.