Open Burning

Kentucky Division for Air Quality

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KENTUCKY DIVISION FOR AIR QUALITY

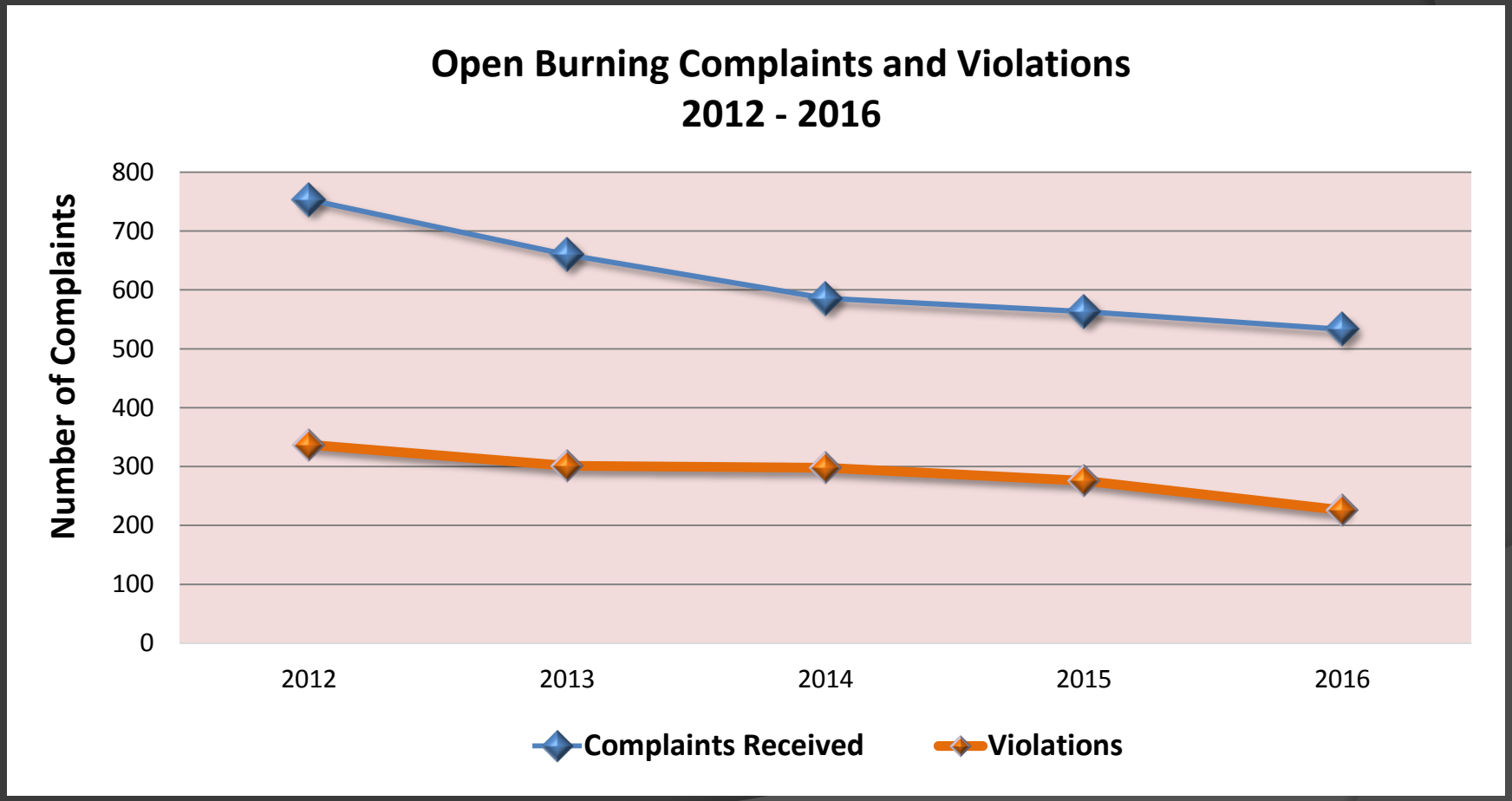
Open Burning

- What is it?
- Why be concerned?
- Legal or Illegal?
- Prohibited burn items
- Restrictions
- Alternatives

What is Open Burning?

Outdoor burning of any material without an approved burn chamber, stack, or chimney with control devices approved by the KY Division for Air Quality.

Illegal open burning has been a serious issue for many years in Kentucky.



Smoke from open burning contains harmful substances, including:

- Dioxins
- Particulate matter
- Volatile organic compounds
- Corrosives

Open Burning Impacts Human Health

Smoke from open burning:

- Depresses the central nervous system
- Is especially harmful to children and adults with respiratory diseases

Kids are especially vulnerable

Developing bodies are especially sensitive to toxins and smoke from open burning.

Open Burning Impacts the Environment

- Air
- Soil
- Water

Smoke Travels

Smoke from land clearing & wildfires on October 22, 2010

Fire and Safety Hazards

The Kentucky Division of Forestry estimates that 35 – 40 percent of wildfires in Kentucky start when open burning gets out of control.

Legal, or Illegal?

What, when, where, and *how* a material is burned determines if the burning is legal or illegal.

Call 502-782-6592 to learn before you burn.

Legal, or Illegal?

Local county/municipal ordinances may have more stringent rules than the state regulation described in this presentation.

Legal Burning Activities

- Fires set for recreational or ceremonial purposes (camp fires, bonfires)
- Small fires set for comfort heat at construction sites (only when air temp. is below 50˚)
- Fires set for cooking (camp fires)

Legal Burning Activities

Burning of:

- Natural growth disturbed as part of land clearing activities (development sites, etc.)
- Trees and/or tree limbs, felled by storms

Legal Burning Activities

Fires set for recognized agricultural, silvicultural, range, or wildlife management practices.

Legal Burning Activities

Fires set for the purpose of instruction and training of firefighters.

- Must receive written permission from State Fire Commission & KY Division for Air Quality
- Materials likely to produce toxic emissions must be removed prior to burn
- Additional restrictions apply

Legal Burning Activities

Leaf burning, with some restrictions

Iowa DNR

Generally only in cities with < 8,000 population (check local ordinance)

The following counties are not allowed to burn leaves from May - September:

Boone, Kenton, Campbell, Boyd, Bullitt, Oldham, and a portion of Lawrence County

Leaf burning is never permitted in Jefferson County.

What About Trash?

Nearly everything found in household trash is illegal to burn.

- Plastic
- Coated paper and cardboard
- Food
- Foam insulation
- Styrofoam
- Metal & glass
- Aerosol cans
- Rubber
- Painted products
- Diapers, clothing

Trash: What *can* you burn?

Uncoated paper products

Office paper

Plain cardboard

Newspaper

Today's Trash is Different

Yesterday's trash

Today's trash

Prohibited Burn Items…

- Tires
- Plastic
- Rubber
- Coated wire
- Insulated wire
- Foam insulation
- Used oil

Prohibited Burn Items: Agricultural

- Bedding material
- Muck piles
- Mulch
- Hay
- Treated, stained, or painted lumber
- Fence posts & wood pallets
- Buildings

Prohibited Burn Items

Grass clippings

- Grass clippings produce excessive smoke
- Grass clippings are “yard waste”, which is not permitted to be burned according to 401 KAR 63:00

Prohibited Burn Items…

- Agricultural chemical containers
- Household chemical containers

Prohibited Burn Items: Construction/Demolition

- Asbestos materials
- Buildings (houses, barns, garages)
- Construction debris
- Demolition debris
- Drywall
- Shingles

Prohibited Burn Items: Waste from Businesses, Schools, & Churches

- Other than land clearing for development, businesses may ***not*** dispose of any waste by burning.
- Debris from private businesses may ***not*** be transported for burning elsewhere

Disposing of Vegetative Storm Debris

Municipalities only, with approval

- May be legally burned (observe fire hazard season restrictions & county burn bans)

- Large piles should be divided and burned incrementally over time

- Care should be taken to locate burn piles away from residences and areas that could be impacted by smoke

Contact the Division for Air Quality before burning large stockpiles of storm debris.

Disposing of Storm Debris

Demolition debris may *not* be burned. Debris may contain asbestos and other hazardous materials.

Demolition debris piles should be kept wet until final disposal in a landfill.

Restrictions during fire hazard season:

Oct. 1 – Dec. 15 *and*
Feb. 15 – April 30

During fire hazard season, burning within 150 feet of any woodland or brushland area is allowed *only during evening hours* between 6 p.m. & 6 a.m.

Where Can You Burn Approved Materials?

- Use common sense to locate fires away from nearby residences or businesses.
- Do **not** locate fires near streams, sinkholes, or under/over utility lines.
- Check to make sure local city/county ordinances allow burning.

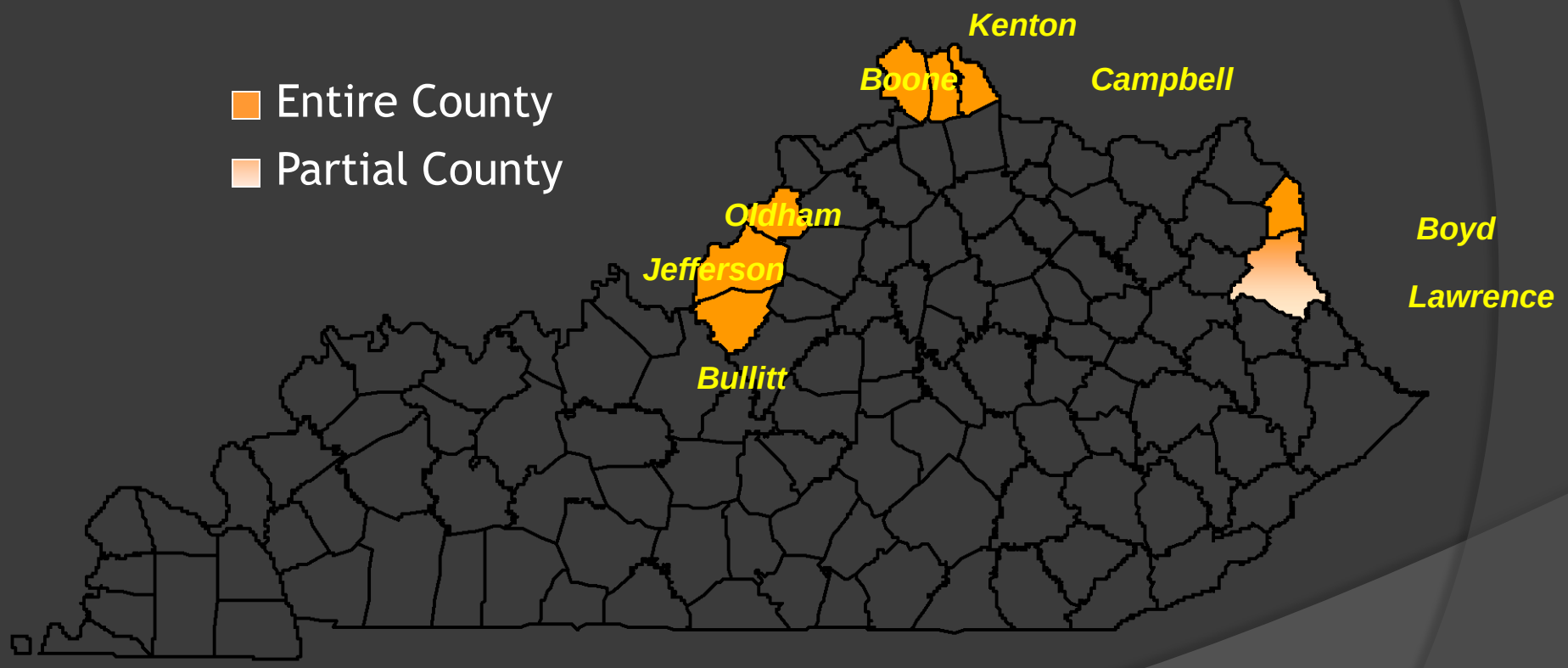
Restrictions during ozone season:

May – September

- Only in Boone, Boyd, Bullitt, Campbell, Jefferson, Kenton, Lawrence, & Oldham counties
- No open burning for land clearing permitted
- No open burning of brush, tree limbs, or paper waste permitted

Other restrictions apply; call 502-782-6592 for more info.

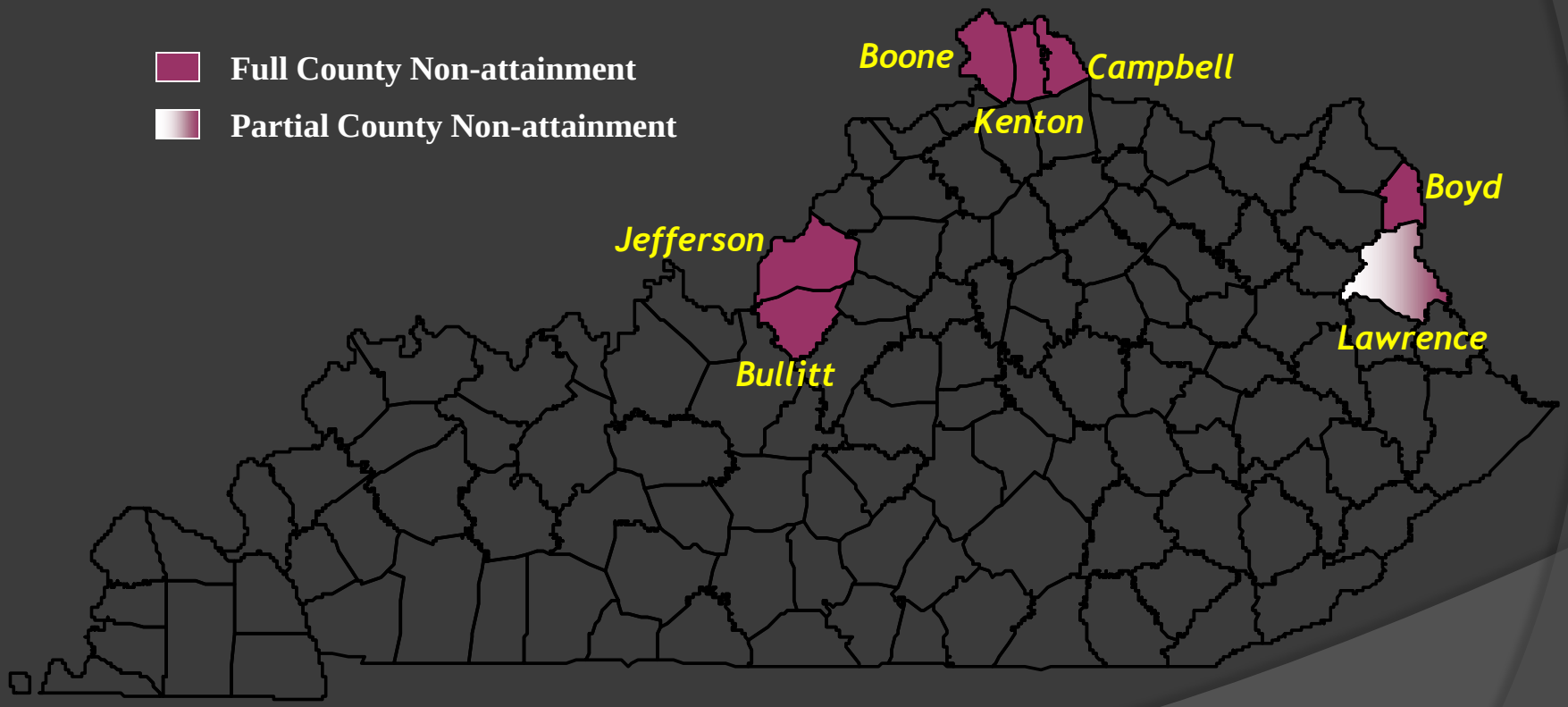
Former Nonattainment Counties
1997 8-hour Ozone Standard



EPA's PM2.5 Non-attainment Designations

Published April 5, 2005

Based on 2002-2004 Monitoring Data



Most Open Burning is Not Necessary!

- Brush could be composted, piled up for the wildlife, or simply left to decay.
- Most debris can be recycled.
- Debris that is not recyclable should be land-filled.

By making a few sensible choices, residents can reduce the amount of disposable materials created in the first place.

Illegal burning could result in a $25,000 fine per day per violation.

In addition to Division for Air Quality rules, other state and local regulations may apply.

For More Information About Recycling, Contact:

KY Division of Waste Management
Attn: Billy Hill
300 Sower Blvd., 2nd Floor
KY 40601
Phone: (502) 564-6716
Email: waste@ky.gov

Tire Amnesty Program:
http://bit.ly/zbRhP9

Kentucky Recycling & Marketing Assistance Program (KRMA):
http://bit.ly/ynzGFI

Kentucky Division for Air Quality Regional Offices

Ashland	Karen Deskins	(606) 929-5285
Bowling Green	Troy Tabor	(270) 746-7475
Florence	Clay Redmond	(859) 525-4923
Frankfort	Natasha Parker	(502) 564-3358
Hazard	Steve Hall	(606) 435-6022
London	Pete Rayburn	(606) 330-2080
Owensboro	Mac Cann	(270) 687-7304
Paducah	Richard Reed	(270) 898-8468

KY Division for Air Quality

300 Sower Blvd, 2nd Floor
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564-3999 or (502) 564-3358

For more information or to report illegal burning

Call 502-782-6592

Or email burnlaw@ky.gov

air.ky.gov

Questions?