

# Open Burning

Kentucky Division for Air Quality

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# Open Burning

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

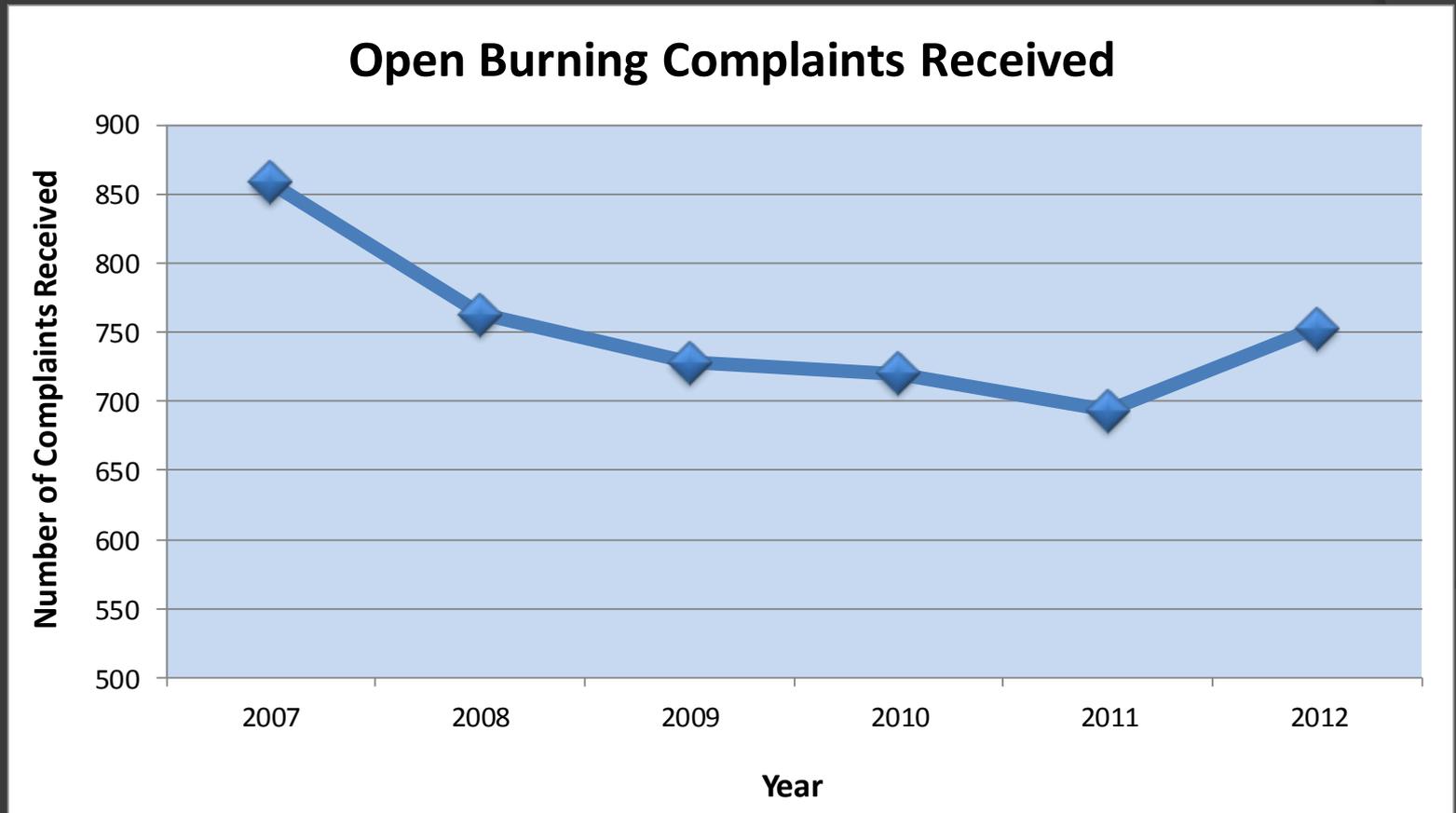


# What is Open Burning?



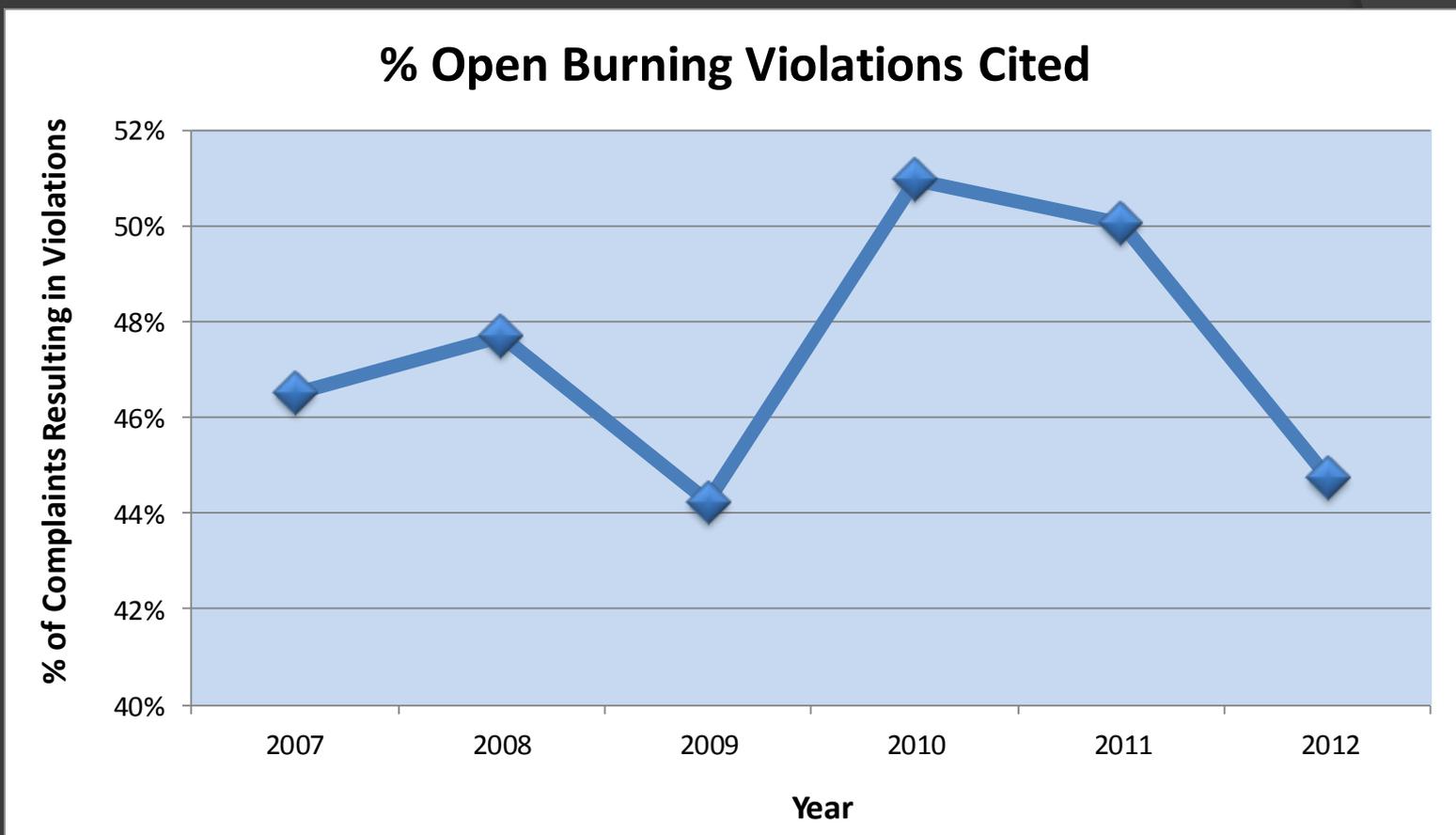
Outdoor burning of any material without an approved burn chamber, stack, or chimney with control devices approved by the KY Division for Air Quality.

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



888-BURN-LAW

The good news is,  
actual violations are down.



888-BURN-LAW

# 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



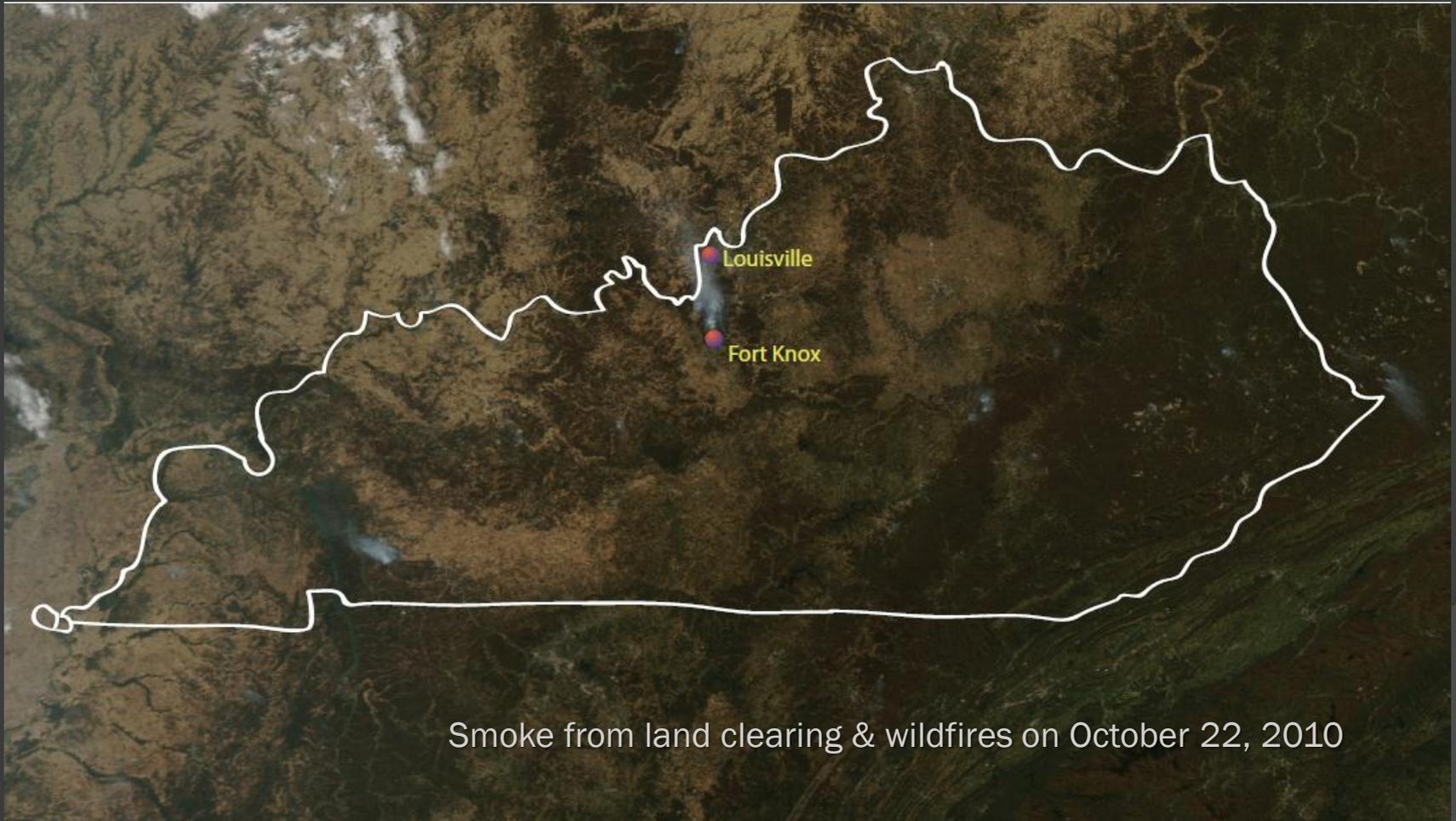
Developing bodies are especially sensitive to toxins and smoke from open burning.

# 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 **888-BURN-LAW** 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

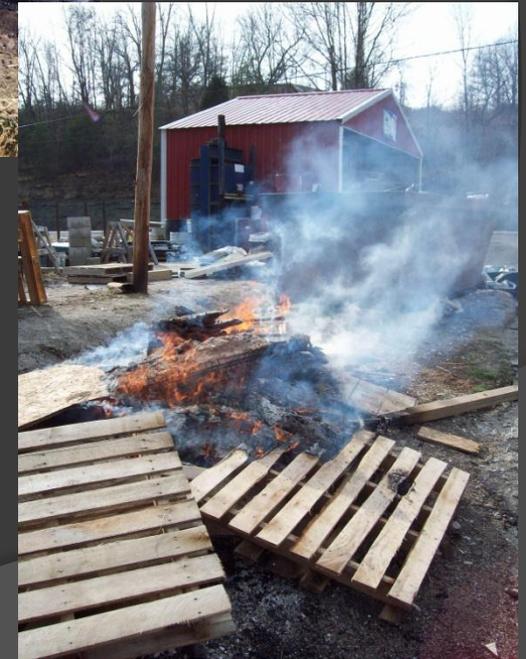
# Prohibited Burn Items...

- 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 888-BURN-LAW for more info.

# 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.

**Burning trash is ILLEGAL.**

Learn Before  
You Burn!

Call  
**888-BURN-LAW**

**This could cost you \$25,000!**

TELL US ABOUT  
AIR QUALITY

# For More Information About Recycling, Contact:

**KY Division of Waste Management**

**Attn: Billy Hill**

200 Fair Oaks Lane, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Frankfort, KY 40601

Phone: (502) 564-6716

Email: [waste@ky.gov](mailto: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	Jarrold Bell	(502) 564-3358
Hazard	Steve Hall	(606) 435-6022
London	David Shivel	(606) 330-2080
Owensboro	Mac Cann	(270) 687-7304
Paducah	Charley Stangle	(270) 898-8468

# **KY Division for Air Quality**

**200 Fair Oaks Lane, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**

**Frankfort, KY 40601**

**(502) 564-3999 or (502) 564-3358**

***For more information or to report illegal burning***

**Call the Open Burn Hotline:**

**888-BURN-LAW**

**888-287-6529**

**[air.ky.gov](http://air.ky.gov)**

# Questions?

