



Commercial Burn Permit (CBP) Application

Page 1 of 2

Updated **SEPT 2026**

NOTICE TO APPLICANT

Upon submission of the application and fee, the use of an Air Curtain Destructor (ACD) is **mandatory**. Burning of debris generated by machine clearing of an area for the purpose of land clearing is considered a land type change subject to the EPD land clearing ACD rules and operation guidelines.

OFFICE USE ONLY

FD Representative: _____ Rank: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Site Information

Site Address	Suite/Unit #	Zip Code
Development/Center	Proposed Use/Tenant	Burning Start Date

Property Information

Tax Parcel	Zoning District	Overlay District Y/N
Property Owner Name	Contact Name	
Property Owner Email Address	Property Owner Phone	
Property Owner Mailing Address		

Applicant Information

Applicant is: ☐ General Contractor ☐ Authorized Permit Agent ☐ Architect/Engineer ☐ Property Owner

Applicant Name	Company Name
Applicant Email Address	Applicant Phone



Commercial Burn Permit (CBP) Application

Page 2 of 2

Updated **SEPT 2026**

Applicant Mailing Address

I, the undersigned, certify that I have read and examined this application and know the same to be true and correct. I understand that the permit issued is only for land clearing as stated, and that all requirements are met. The permit is granted on the express condition that the said clearing shall, in all respects, conform to the ordinances and laws of the City of Pooler, Georgia, including the zoning ordinance, regulating the construction and use of buildings, and may be revoked at any time upon violation of any provisions of said ordinances. I understand that the ability to burn materials for land-clearing may be suspended and/or revoked at any time by the Fire Chief or any other agent within in the City, if all guidelines are not being followed or in their opinion, the fire is creating a nuisance to surrounding properties. If any information is found to be false or misrepresented, the permit will be deemed invalid. I understand that the fire and any resulting smoke are my sole responsibility and agree to hold the City of Pooler harmless from any resulting damages. I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the City of Pooler from all damages, demands, or expenses of every character which may in any manner be caused by this work.

Applicant Name

Applicant Signature

Date



Commercial Burn Permit (CBP) Checklist/Process

Page 1 of 1

Updated SEPT 2026

1. Land Disturbance/Timbering Request

- ☐ Approved Site Plan from Planning & Zoning. If not, why? _____
- ☐ Approved Landscape Plan from Planning & Zoning. If not, why? _____
- ☐ Tree Survey conducted and submitted? If not, why? _____
- ☐ Approved Site Plan from City Council. If not, why? _____
- ☐ Approved Landscape Plan from City Council. If not, why? _____

2. Commercial Burn Permit (CBP) Application

- ☐ Obtain CBP application from Fire Headquarters.
- ☐ Complete CBP application.
- ☐ Submit CBP application to Stacy Weston for processing.
- ☐ Upon approval, application showing authorization to proceed will be emailed to the applicant.

3. Planning & Development (Building) Department

- ☐ Applicant shall bring approved CBP application to Pooler City Hall and pay permit fee.
- ☐ Applicant shall submit original CBP application to the Pooler Planning & Development Department to be filed with the approved Land Disturbing Activity (LDA) Permit.
- ☐ Building & Zoning Specialist will email Stacy Weston upon completion.

4. Burning Process

- ☐ Upon ignition or the intent to ignite, Pooler Fire-Rescue Services must be notified by calling (912) 748-7012 or emailing sweston@pooler-ga.gov.
- ☐ Upon completion of the burning process, Pooler Fire-Rescue Services must be notified by calling (912) 748-7012 or emailing sweston@pooler-ga.gov.

What is an Air Curtain Destructor (ACD)?

A forced air pit incinerator, for the purpose of disposing vegetative waste and debris.

Operating Guide

No smoke emissions exceeding forty percent opacity may be produced during operation except for a reasonable period during ignition and charging of the pit.

When the pit is cleared of ash, airborne particulate is to be minimized by wetting or mixing the ashes with dirt.

Prevailing winds during operation must be away from the major portion of residential population.

During an air pollution episode, such as an air pollution alert/warning/emergency declared by proper authorities, the ACD is not to be operated. An air pollution episode occurs when the air contaminant concentration in an area is great enough to cause danger to public health.

Burning may be less objectionable for others if conducted during the day; not on holidays or Sundays; when there is no rain or heavy fog predicted; or, usually, after at least one day following the passage of a cold front.

Figure 1 – Site Preparation

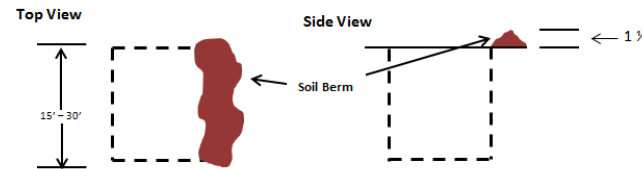


Figure 2 – Air Curtain Destructor (ACD) Set up

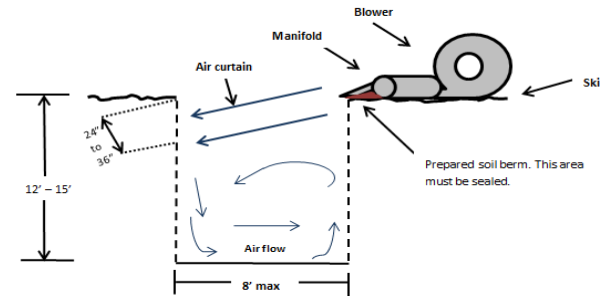


Figure 3 – Cross-section of Pit and ACD

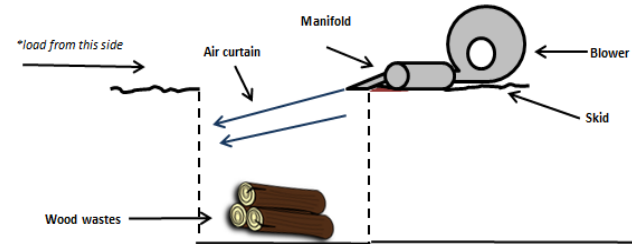


Figure 4 – Profile of Pit and ACD

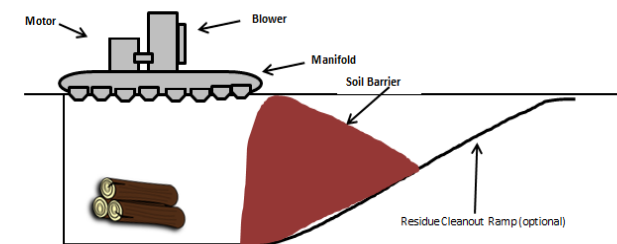
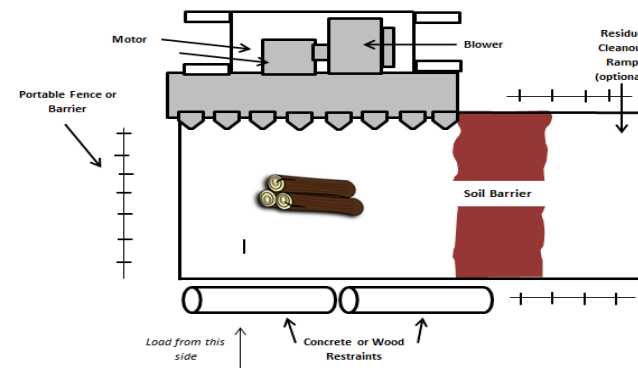


Figure 5 – Plan View of Pit and ACD



Air Curtain Destructor:

A Quick Reference Guide to achieve compliance with Georgia's Air Curtain Destructor (ACD) Regulations



Photo courtesy of AirBurners, INC.

Do not operate an ACD without the proper **Burn Permit**

Always obtain a Burn Permit

At all times, adhere to all local ordinances and regulations regarding use of an air curtain destructor.

No more than one ACD can be operated within a ten acre area at one time.

A damaged ACD with an air duct or manifold that cannot pass an even flow of air across the top of the pit is not authorized.

The ACD must be operated to prevent air, land or water pollution, safety/health hazards, or nuisances.

The amount of dirt/soil on or in the material being burned must be minimized.

Operating Procedures

1) Site Location and Preparation

-Select a site which will likely have a low water table, can be easily excavated and is no less than 300 feet from occupied structures.

2) Pit Preparation

-Excavate the pit using either a front-end loader or backhoe. The pit dimensions are 8 feet wide x 12-15 feet deep x 15-30 feet long (pit length depends on length of ACD manifold). In no case should the 8 feet width be exceeded.

-The pit must be excavated with at least three vertical sides in soil capable of maintaining vertical walls of 15 feet depth with out failure. Additional wall support may be necessary. Caution must be exercised to insure that walls are not undercut during excavations.

-If a front-end loader is used for the excavation, the end used for travel must be filled in with dirt beginning at the end of the manifold and filling up the ramp. (See Figure 4)

3) ACD Manifold Set up

-Using a small berm of soil (1 to 1/2 feet high) place the manifold (plenum and nozzles) such that the manifold is properly supported and the space between the manifold and ground is sealed. Rotate the manifold until the air curtain will be directed at an imaginary horizontal line 24 to 36 inches below the top of the opposite wall. Slide the skid containing the blower and motor into place and connect to manifold. (See Figure 2)

4) Ignition Procedures

5) Get a Burn Permit from Pooler Fire-Rescue

6) Load the pit half full with the homogeneous mixture of logs, trees and large brush. Douse the wood with 1/2 gallon of fuel oil putting the majority of the fuel oil on the wood at the front center side of the pit. Ignite the wood at the same point. Allow sufficient time for the fire to take hold before introducing any air from the ACD. As the fire grows in intensity, gradually bring the blower up to the optimum speed (generally between 1,100 and 1,400 RPM, depending on the size, type and make of the blower)



Do not use tires or highly volatile solvents such as mineral spirits, gasoline, etc. for ignition.

Operating Procedures (continued)

5) Loading Procedure

-Once the fire reaches full intensity, successive intermittent charging may begin.

-The intervals between charges may be determined by observing the burning rate. Generally, if the fire is kept at its maximum intensity, it will keep one man, operating a front-end loader or clamshell bucket constantly busy. The charges should be alternated between light and heavy material. The material should be charged toward the rear of the pit under the ACD manifold.

-The pit should not be overloaded; that is the material should not be piled up so high that it will protrude above the air curtain. Also, no materials should extend outside the boundaries of the pit and air curtain where sufficient air is not available from the nozzles.

6) Maintenance and Safety Requirements

-Ash removal is required in order to maintain efficient and proper combustion. Ashes should not be allowed to build up in the pit to higher than 1/3 the pit depth or to the point where they begin to impede combustion and are blown out of the pit, whichever occurs first.

-If spalling, "cave off" occurs during operation, a new pit must be constructed and the existing pit filled with soil.

-Any accumulation of water in the pit must be removed prior to operation.

-For reasons of public safety, a fence or barrier surrounding the combustion pit is recommended.

-A "stop guide" or restraint must be provided at the loading side of the pit in order to keep the loader from getting too close to the pit during the charging operation.

NOTE

Only wood wastes consisting of trees, logs, large brush and stumps relatively free of soil may be burned. Leaves, sawdust, other densely packed wood wastes, paper (any type), chemically treated, coated or impregnated wood CANNOT be burned.

Sec. 46-6. Outdoor burning.

All burning operations in the city shall comply with the "Rules for Air Quality Control" Chapter 391-3-1 as written and amended by the Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, Air Protection Branch unless specifically modified herein.

No person shall cause, suffer, allow or permit open burning in any area of the city without a permit issued by the Georgia Forestry Commission, in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 12-6-90.

(1) *Permissible fires.*

Residential property maintenance. Burning of leaf piles and other "natural vegetation" such as trees, shrubbery and pine straw on the premises on which they fall by the person in control of the premises are permitted, subject to the described restrictions:

- a. No burn pile shall be larger than six feet in diameter by two feet high. There shall be ten feet between burn piles. The location for open burning shall not be less than 50 feet from any structure (house, accessory structure, fence, public utility) on piles three feet to five feet in diameter and 25 feet where the pile size is three feet or less in diameter and two feet or less in height. All fires must be constantly attended by a competent person 16 years of age or older with the ability to extinguish the fire. There shall be no more than two burn piles at any time. No burning of this type will be authorized when the humidity is less than 25 percent or the winds are greater than ten mph, as provided on the Georgia Forestry Commission daily "wind speed" and "humidity" database (<http://weather.gfc.state.ga.us/Maps.html>). Failure to comply with these rules which results in an uncontrolled fire or a valid complaint that requires the response of the fire department, will result in the fire being immediately extinguished.

(2) *Land clearing.* The burning of vegetative material for the purpose of land clearing and/or the construction of rights-of-way is allowed after obtaining a permit, subject to the following restrictions. Permits shall only be issued for burn piles not exceeding 60' x 60' x 10' and only when the following conditions are met:

- a. Pits must be located at least 1,000 feet from any occupied or habitable structure in accordance with the Georgia Open Burning Rules. (The distance may be increased at the discretion of the fire chief or his designee);
- b. Only wood waste consisting of trees, logs, large brush, stumps and untreated lumber that is relatively free of soil may be burned;
- c. The burning of leaves, sawdust, densely packed wood wastes, paper, chemically treated or coated wood, and non-wood construction material is prohibited;
- d. Only diesel fuel or kerosene may be used as a liquid accelerant to ignite fires;
- e. Tires, rubber products, plastics, heavy oils or asphalt-based materials shall not be used as starters or accelerants; and
- f. Smoke emissions must not exceed 40 percent opacity except for a reasonable period during ignition.

In addition to any other conditions, issuance of the permit shall be subject to the following procedures:

- a. Permits for burning must be obtained from the City of Pooler for each operation;
- b. Prior to commencement, the applicant must submit a plat or site plan to the fire chief or their designee, indicating the proposed location of the pit and the proximity to any occupied or unoccupied structure;

-
- c. Burning shall not commence prior to an inspection of the site and pit by the fire chief or their designee;
 - d. Upon approval, the permit shall be valid for 30 days from the issue date; and
 - e. Permits may be extended in 15-day increments without additional fees, for a maximum of two extension periods.
- (3) *Right to require extinguishment of fires.* The highest ranking on-scene fire-rescue department employee and highest ranking on-duty police department employee and the chiefs of the respective departments may require a fire be extinguished when the fire, resulting smoke or related activities are deemed by such person to be a nuisance or if smoke is creating a health hazard or when smoke reduces visibility on roadways.
- (4) *Enforcement; penalties.* Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be subject to penalties as set forth in section 1-12. In addition, any landowner or contractor/developer shall be responsible for all smoke and embers originating from any fire for which the landowner or contractor/developer is/are responsible pursuant to this section. Any person or entity found to be in violation of this section shall also be liable to the city for any and all costs associated with extinguishing a fire, or fires, which do not comply with the provisions of this section. In addition, any person violating any provision of this section which results in a fire requiring the response of the fire department shall also be liable for the costs incurred in responding to the fire, including but not limited to actual labor costs, costs of equipment operation, and costs of materials.

(Ord. of 11-19-1990, § I; Ord. of 9-17-2018(2), § I; Ord. No. O2024-09.A, § I, 10-7-2024)