

Officials Urge Safe Controlled Burning

(KAIR)--Controlled burning is a common site in the agricultural parts of Kansas. Fire goes a long way toward clearing land and preparing the soil for new crops. City residents are also able to use a controlled burn for their own purposes, but Atchison Fire Chief Mike McDermid urges caution when doing so, and explains there are strict conditions set forth by the city. For instance, burning is restricted to the daylight hours, so all burns must take place before dusk. Also, only simple yard waste such as leaves and small brush can be burned.

Wind speed should also be taken into consideration. A burn cannot take place if the wind speed is fifteen miles per hour or higher. Residents can contact the fire department to obtain the current wind speed or obtain it on their own.

McDermid also says that the proper precautions need to be taken in the event the fire gets out of hand. There has to be some method of extinguishing the fire readily available, whether that be a simple fire extinguisher or buckets of water. Of course, if the fire does get out of hand, 911 should be called so the fire department can take care of it themselves.

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