



PENNSYLVANIA LUMBERMENS MUTUAL
INSURANCE COMPANY

OPEN BURNING & WARMING BARRELS

Due to the danger of fires being started by open burning on the ground and warming fires in uncovered 55 gallon drums, PLM is recommending that the following precautions be taken on insured properties.

BURN BARRELS

PLM recommends that open 55-gallon drums, used for warming fires on cold days, **not be used**. The reasoning for this is that many insured's have used this method of allowing employees to keep warm, and when Technical Service personnel have found the barrels in use, they are usually over filled with burning material, and some burning wood have been found on the ground outside the drum. Also, embers and sparks have been observed traveling through the air toward stacks of lumber and even into buildings.

Even if screening material has been placed on top of the barrels, some sparks and embers may still escape. A spark or ember landing in sawdust or other combustible material may go unnoticed, and an ensuing fire is the result.

OPEN BURNING ON THE GROUND

Some insured properties burn scrap lumber and other materials out in the open and on the ground. In some cases, this is the only means of disposing of scrap material. PLM recognizes the need in some areas to do this, however, for this to be an accepted risk, PLM makes the following recommendations for allowing open burning on the ground.

1. All open burning must be done at least 200 feet from any structure or combustible material. This also includes stands of trees, woods, high grass and brush.
2. A pit should be dug to keep the burning material confined and below the ground surface. Dirt dug out of the pit, should be used as a berm around the pit to help contain the burning material.
3. A water supply line of at least 1½-inch pipe from a substantial water supply and at least 100 feet of 1½ fire hose, charged, must be available.
4. A responsible person should be in the immediate area to watch for flying embers or sparks during the burn.
5. Wind direction and velocity should be taken into consideration when planning a burn. If the wind is blowing in the direction of buildings, lumber stock or woods, and is of a strong velocity, then burning should not be done until the wind conditions are favorable.
6. Most States require a permit from the Department of Forestry and/or the Environmental Protection Agency in order to legally burn in the open. Your local authorities should be contacted and permits obtained before burning.

PLM Loss Control Representatives are available and ready to assist you in complying with these recommendations. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the Loss Control Department at 1.800.752.1895 or via email at CustServ@plmins.com.