



Kingman County Commission

Fred Foley, County Commissioner District #1
Carol F. Voran, County Commissioner District #2
John Steffen, County Commissioner District #3

Kingman County Courthouse, 130 N. Spruce, Kingman KS 67068
Office of the County Clerk: Phone: 620-532-2521 / Fax: 620-532-5082

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Nov. 21, 2013

For more information, contact Nancy D. Borst, 620-532-2037 / nborst@kingmancoks.com

County implements new burn permit process

Changes are coming in how Kingman County residents apply for and receive annual open burn permits, starting with the 2014 calendar year.

Permits for 2014 will not be available until Jan. 1. Under the previous paper application system, county residents could apply for a permit in December for the following year. In 2014, the county is switching to an online application process. All burn permits will be done via the Internet through the county's website. The idea is to streamline the process and make it easier to apply.

Here is how the new system will work. First, anyone wanting a permit should go to the county's website (www.kingmancoks.com) no sooner than Jan. 1. Those who do not have access to an Internet connection can come to the County Clerk's office at the Kingman County Courthouse, 130 N. Spruce in Kingman, and staff will assist you in applying for a permit. The three major cooperative exchanges in the county are willing, if staff are available, to assist customers in obtaining a permit.

A clear link to the burn permit application will be posted on the county's homepage no later than Jan. 1. Simply click on that link to read the open burning resolution, rules and regulations, then complete the short application. Users will be asked to check a box verifying they have read and understand the information. Anyone that enters an e-mail address will receive the permit via e-mail. Or the permit can be printed directly from the Internet.

This upgrade will allow residents to apply for a permit 24/7 from the comfort of home. Smart phone users can apply for a permit from anywhere they have service. They then can use the e-mail to verify their permit in the field.

"If you're out checking your fence in the spring and realize you have a brush pile you need to burn, you could apply for your burn permit from your smart phone," said Fred Simon, Kingman County director of emergency management. "Once you receive it, then you'd have it. You could call in (to burn) and have proof of your permit right there on your phone."

The permit also includes a requested feature: a business card-size section with the application date, permit number and telephone number for county dispatch. This card can be clipped and placed in a wallet for quick reference and proof of a permit.

The rules and regulations for burning remain essentially the same as they were in 2013. Those regulations include:

- Mandatory fire breaks (plowed, disked or mowed) of at least 25 feet wide on all sides of the burn area (for field fires);
- Not burning when winds exceed 15 MPH (as measured by county dispatch);
- Calling dispatch at (620) 532-3138 at least one hour before burning.

People that violate the open burn resolution, rules or regulations will be required to reimburse any fire department that responds in the amount of \$165 per hour per fire truck or piece of fire response equipment.

The burn permits will continue to be valid for one year and must be renewed annually.

“We hope this will make it easier and more convenient for most of the citizens of Kingman County,” said Simon.

The county issues between 800 and 1,000 open burn permits each year.

#