

Visibility at risk

Tips and information safe burning practices

Highway visibility conditions have been greatly impacted as of late on northern Alberta highways due to landowners and companies burning brush piles and other materials.

The burning of materials in quantities large enough to create near-zero visibility road conditions has negatively impacted carriers who operate in this region, contributing to numerous accidents and near misses.



Safe burning when clearing land

- Whenever possible, try to avoid building piles in muskeg areas
- Whenever possible, use a brush rake or excavator to build piles
- Try to eliminate as much dirt and debris from tree and shrub roots, and pack windrows as tight as possible
- Build windrows across the direction of prevailing wind and ensure they are not longer than 60 metres (200 feet). Ensure there is a minimum 8 metre (25 foot) break created between the ends of each windrow
- Ensure all windrows/piles are 25 metres (75 feet) from standing timber)
- Ensure a minimum of 15 metres (50 feet) of bare mineral soil guard is around all windrows and piles

Recommendation

The AMTA is requesting the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry change the forestry burn permit policy to include an all-year requirement. This would allow the Ministry to permit and stop burning when a danger to the motoring public has been identified.



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