

Crop Burning

It is illegal to burn cereal straw and stubble and the residues of oilseed rape, peas and beans in the field, unless:

- It is for education or research purposes
- It is in compliance with a notice served under the Plant Health (Great Britain) Order 1993 (e.g. to eliminate pests)
- It is to dispose of broken bales and the remains of straw stacks.

The burning of linseed residues is exempted from the ban.

Any burning for education and research, in compliance with a plant health order, or of linseed residues must be carried out in compliance with the following requirements:

- Burning is not permitted at weekends or on Bank Holidays
- Fires should not be lit before sunrise, or later than one hour before sunset
- No more than 10 hectares of straw or stubble, or 20 hectares of other crop residues can be burnt in a single operation
- No burning within 15 metres of trees, fences, pylons or telegraph poles, if straw or stubble is burnt
- No burning within five metres of trees, fences, pylons or telegraph poles, if other residues are burnt
- No burning within 50 metres of residential buildings or machinery, if straw or stubble is burnt
- No burning within 15 metres of residential buildings or machinery, if other residues are burnt
- No burning within 100 metres of motorways, A roads, dual carriageways and railway lines
- The area to be burnt must be completely surrounded by a fire-break. This must be 10 metres wide for straw or stubble and five metres wide for other residues
- At least two adults, who are familiar with The Crop Residues (Burning) Regulations 1993, must be present during the burning. One of these must be in control of the operation and must be experienced in burning crop residues
- At least one hour's notice must be given to the following: local Environmental Health Department, occupiers of all premises adjacent to the area to be burned and air traffic control of any aerodrome within 800 metres
- At least 1,000 litres of water must be available on the burning site, together with equipment to dispense the water in a spray or jet at a rate of 100 litres per minute
- There must be five implements for fire beating available
- All vehicles used in connection with burning must be equipped with fire extinguishers
- Ash remaining from straw and stubble burning should normally be incorporated into the soil within 24 hours of burning.

The maximum fine for each breach of the Regulations is currently £5,000. Furthermore, it is an offence under the Clean Air Act 1993 to create dark smoke and the council also has a duty under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to serve a notice if a nuisance is caused.

For further information, or if you wish to report crop burning, please contact the Environmental Health (Commercial) Team on 01724 297617 or email environmental.health@northlincs.gov.uk