

## Does a local fire department have to receive permission from the DEQ to burn a structure for fire training?

No, a fire department does not have to receive permission from the DEQ to burn a structure for fire training. However, the fire department is required to follow important conditions, such as:

1. Choose an acceptable location. Training should not be conducted within two miles of a school, nursing home, hospital, or other public facility.
2. Contact residents that may be affected by smoke and odor. The DEQ's Air Quality Division (AQD) may require that the training be suspended immediately if complaints are received by the district office.
3. Choose an acceptable accelerant. Straw, clean wood, or other non-hazardous materials are acceptable. Do not use tires, gasoline, garbage, furniture, or other hazardous materials (acceptable fuels are listed in the [National Fire Protection Act \(NFPA\) 1403](#)).
4. Contact the DEQ's Asbestos Coordinator at 517-335-4639. Federal law requires that the DEQ's Asbestos Coordinator be contacted 10 working days prior to fire suppression training conducted on any structure. Complete the [Notice of Intent to Renovate/Demolish \(EOP 5661\)](#) form which is available on the Web at [www.michigan.gov/deqair](http://www.michigan.gov/deqair) (select "Open Burning Information").
5. Contact the appropriate [AQD district office](#). Give the district office the name and phone number of a person that can be reached during the training. The district office should be made aware of the training exercise because they respond to air quality complaints and will need to know about activities in the area that may be generating air pollution. They can also answer questions about what can and cannot be included in fire suppression training.

For additional information about preparing for a fire training event, go to the DEQ's fact sheet "[Fire Suppression Training: Environmental Protection Guidance](#)" or go to [www.michigan.gov/deqair](http://www.michigan.gov/deqair) and select "Clean Air Assistance" and "Open Burning Information."