



WHO TO CALL

1. To put out a fire currently burning contact the fire department (#103)
2. If the damage is ecological contact MiAmbiente (6706-6707)
3. If a source of revenue less than \$250 USD is damaged visit Corregiduría (Pedasi: in front of supercentro between post and mayors office)
4. If a source of revenue worth more than \$250 USD is damaged visit Personería if you believe the fire was spread intentionally (Calle José A. Carrasquilla, close to Casita Margarita)
5. If you wish to negotiate with your neighbor, a lawyer is available at the Centro de Mediación (corner Calle la Policia N°3 and Avenida Norte)

MiAmbiente Law on Burning

February 3, 1994 Title VI articles 84-93

1. **Property owners need written consent from their adjacent neighbors**
2. **Property owners need a permit from MiAmbiente to burn 15 days before the anticipated burn date and should provide the following:**
 - ▶ Payment of Paz y Salvo (\$3.00)
 - ▶ Copy of property title
 - ▶ Copy of official identification of landowner
 - ▶ Firebreak around perimeter of burn area (min 5m width)
 - ▶ Signature of acceptance of adjoining property owners
3. **Once a permit has been issued, neighbors must be advised at least 5 days in advance of the date the burn will take place**
4. **The consequences for breaking the law are as follows and depend on the extent of damage determined by MiAmbiente**
 - ▶ \$100 to \$500 for burning private property
 - ▶ \$1000 to \$2000 if that private property has a primary forest
 - ▶ 1 to 3 years in prison if in an protected area or special forest

FIRE CONTROL: RIGHTS & REGULATIONS

A GUIDE TO PROTECT YOUR FARM FROM NEIGHBORING BURNS



Burning is used for the removal of trash and dead or unwanted vegetation from land.

Fire can quickly spread out of control, damaging forests, wildlife, and agriculture. Inhaling smoke damages health.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES FOR THE BURNING SEASON

- 1. Alert your neighbors to the fact that permission from you and MiAmbiente must be obtained.** If you do consent to burn they must inform you 15 days in advance. If this requirement is not met, they will be responsible for any damages to your property
 - ▶ You can do this in person or by letter sent to your neighbors, the mayor and MiAmbiente
- 2. Contact MiAmbiente if you believe your neighbors plan to burn without your consent**
 - ▶ Call or go to the MiAmbiente office to see if your neighbor has a permit to burn (6706-6707). If they have a permit without your consent you can report them directly
- 3. Construct Firebreak around perimeter of your property**
 - ▶ Made by plough, hoe or axe to remove all the vegetation and underbrush in a 5m wide strip that contains only rocks and soil. Make your firebreaks around the perimeter of your property. The person intending to burn is the one responsible for paying for the firebreaks

HOW TO PROSECUTE SOMEONE THAT BURNED WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT

- 1. Contact MiAmbiente officials or the fire department as soon as possible to determine the origin of the fire.**
- 2. Take pictures of the site and know the name of the property owner.**
 - ▶ Make sure you bring your property title, even if it is not necessary it will expedite the process
- 3. Go to MiAmbiente office and file an official complaint**
 - ▶ After a burn you have 5 days to present your written defense and allegation and 8 work days to present proof (photos) of illegal burn. If you visited before and presented your concerns, it will be helpful to prove negligence



CONTACTS FOR FIRE PERMITS AND LEGAL CONCERNS

Pedasí: Miguel Batista (6706-6707)

Las Tablas: Engineer Dilsa Barrios (994-7313)

This eco-guide is a living document. If there are any errors, comments or clarifications to this info please contact Azuero Earth Project in person, by email, or phone:

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