

## Who to Call

**To put out a fire currently burning,**  
contact the fire department.  
#103

**If the damage is ecological,**  
contact MiAmbiente.  
6916-5136

**If a source worth less than \$250 is damaged,**  
visit Corregiduría.  
Pedasi: in front of supercentro between post  
and mayors office

**If a source worth more than \$250 is damaged,**  
visit Personería if you believe the fire was  
spread intentionally.  
Calle José A. Carrasquilla, close to Casita  
Margarita

**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

## Contact for Fire Permits and Legal Concerns

**Pedasí**  
Miguel Batista  
6030-1983

**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 Pro Eco Azuero in person, by email, or phone.

**Authors:**  
Megan Corbetta-Thompson, Megan Zimba,  
Leo Mena

**Colaboradores:**  
MiAmbiente Las Tablas/Pedasí,  
Dr Vernon Scholey, Ruth Metzel, James Beck,  
JICA Volunteer Kohei Kubota



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@proecoazuero

info@proecoazuero.org  
+507 995-2995



# FIRE CONTROL

## RIGHTS & REGULATIONS

A guide to protect your farm  
from neighboring fires





## MiAmbiente Law on Burning

February 3, 1994 Title IV articles 84-93

**Property owners need written consent from their adjacent neighbors.**

**Property owners need a permit from MiAmbiente 15 days prior to burning 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 adjacent property owners

**Once a permit has been issued, neighbors must be advised at least 15 days in advance of the date the burning will take place.**

**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 it's within a protected area or special forest

## Preventive measures for the burning season

To Burners

**Notify your neighbor that they must obtain a permit from you and MiAmbiente.**

If you give consent to the burning, 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 send a letter to your neighbors, the mayor and MiAmbiente.

To MiAmbiente

**Contact MiAmbiente if you believe your neighbors plan to burn without your consent.**

Call or go to the MiAmbiente office to verify if your neighbor has a permit to burn (6916-5136). If they have a permit without your consent you can report them directly.

Physically

**Construct a firebreak around the perimeter of your property.**

Remove all the vegetation and underbrush with an axe, machete or other tools in a 5m wide strip that contains only rocks and soil. Make your firebreaks around the perimeter of your property. The person who burns is the one responsible of paying for the firebreaks.

Burning is used to remove trash and dead or unwanted vegetation from the land.

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

## 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 find out the name of the property owner.**

Make sure you bring your property title; although it is not necessary, it will accelerate the process.

**3 Go to the MiAmbiente office and file an official complaint.**

You have 5 days to present your written defense and allegations and 8 work days to present physical proof (photos) of the illegal burn. If you visited and presented your concerns before, it will be helpful to prove negligence.