Burn pit

A **burn pit** is an area of a United States military base in which waste is disposed of by burning.

Materials burned and combustion products[edit]

The waste burned using burn pits included chemicals, paints, medical waste, human waste, metal and aluminum products, electronic waste, munitions (including unexploded ordnance), petroleum products, lubricants, plastics, rubber, wood, and food waste. A typical burn pit uses jet fuel (usually JP-8) as the accelerant.[16] The burning of such material created clouds of black smoke.[8]

According to an Air Force fact sheet[citation needed], "Burning solid wastes in an open pit generates numerous pollutants. These pollutants include dioxins, particulate matter, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide, hexachlorobenzene, and ash. Highly toxic dioxins, produced in small amounts in almost all burning processes, can be produced in elevated levels with increased combustion of plastic waste (such as discarded drinking water bottles) and if the combustion is not at high incinerator temperatures. Inefficient combustion of medical or latrine wastes can emit disease-laden aerosols." Hexachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (colloquially known as dioxin) is the same chemical found in Agent Orange used in the Vietnam War.[citation needed] Additionally, burn pits also created particulate matter (PM) 2.5 and PM 10 pollution. Below is a table that has all of the known pollutants that have been detected in burn pits.[17]

1,2,3,4,7,8-HexaCDD	acenaphthylene (ACY)	chrysene (CHR)
1,2,3,7,8,9-HexaCDD	anthracene (ANT)	dibenz[*a*,*h*]anthracene (DBahA)
1,2,3,7,8-PentaCDD	benz[*a*]anthracene (BaA)	fluoranthene (FLT)
10 furans	benzo[*a*]pyrene (BaP)	fluorene (FLU)
17 PAHs	benzo[*b*]fluoranthene (BbF)	indeno[1,2,3-*cd*]pyrene (IP)
2,3,7,8-TetraCDD	benzo[*e*]pyrene (BeP)	Naphthalene
7 dioxins, 1,2,3,4,6,7,8-HeptaCDD	benzo[*ghi*]perylene (BghiP)	OctaCDD
acenaphthene (ACE)	benzo[*k*]fluoranthene (BkF),	pyrene (PYR)