

Burning Outdoors?

Don't Let Your Fire Get Away!

If you start a wildfire, you could be billed for the cost of putting it out. Follow all the laws to keep your fire safe. Most escaped fires started as illegal fires. We've made it easy to follow the rules. All the information for Skamania, Clark, Cowlitz, Wahkiakum and Lewis Counties is available at www.swfire.com.

Frequently Asked Questions

What Can Be Burned?	No matter what type of fire you're planning, it is legal to burn only natural vegetation or firewood. It is against the law to burn anything else – even paper (except for the amount necessary to start a fire).
Can Burn Barrels Be Used?	No, the use of burn barrels is prohibited statewide.*
Can Construction Debris Be Burned?	It is illegal to burn any material resulting from a construction, renovation or demolition project.
When is Burning Allowed?	Burning is allowed only during daylight hours, unless otherwise permitted. Check with your county for local ordinances. Recreational fires are excluded from this restriction. Burn only when winds are light and do not exceed 7 – 10 MPH. No burning is allowed during a burn ban. Call your local county offices or 1-800-323-BURN for current burn ban information.
When is Burning Considered a Nuisance?	Smoke, odor or ash that unreasonably impacts neighboring properties is illegal.

*Washington banned the use of burn barrels in 2000. Burning garbage has been illegal since 1967. WAC 173-425 bans the use of a burn barrel and prohibits the burning of all material, except firewood and natural vegetation grown on the property. This regulation also prohibits burning during periods of impaired air quality and prohibits outdoor burning from becoming a nuisance to surrounding neighbors and businesses.

Land Clearing Burning

All counties require permits to burn land clearing debris piles 10 feet or larger. Wahkiakum County requires a permit, free of charge, for any size pile of land clearing debris.

ALWAYS CALL 1-800-323-BURN BEFORE YOU BURN FOR CURRENT BURN BAN INFORMATION.

Wahkiakum	Lewis	Cowlitz	Clark	Skamania
(360) 795-3301	1-800-633-0709 SWCAA	1-800-633-0709 SWCAA	(360) 397-2186	1-800-633-0709 SWCAA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A free written burn permit is required for burning material resulting from land clearing operations. The permits are available from Wahkiakum County Public Works; call (360) 795-3301. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A permit is required to burn piles of land clearing debris larger than 10x10x6 feet and outside urban areas. Contact the Southwest Clean Air Agency (SWCAA) at 1-800-633-0709 to request a site inspection, which likely will take place within one week of the request. There is a \$100 fee for this permit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burn piles of land clearing debris larger than 10x10x6 feet outside the Longview /Kelso No-Burn Area require a permit. Contact the Southwest Clean Air Agency (SWCAA) at 1-800-633-0709 to request a site inspection, which will likely take place within one week of the request. There is a \$100 fee for this permit. All burns must comply with local ordinances and seasonal restrictions. Call your local fire department or town hall for burn permit locations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A written permit and site inspection is required for piles larger than 10x10x6 feet and for land clearing operations. Call the Clark County Fire Marshal's Office at (360) 397-2186 to schedule an appointment, which likely will take place within one week of the request. There is a fee for the permit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For piles larger than 10x10x5 feet, call Southwest Clean Air Agency (SWCAA) at 1-800-633-0709 to request an appointment for a land clearing permit, which will likely take place within one week of the request. There is a \$100 fee for this permit.

