

# 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](http://www.swfire.com).

### Frequently Asked Questions

<b>What Can Be Burned?</b>	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).
<b>Can Burn Barrels Be Used?</b>	No, the use of burn barrels is prohibited statewide.*
<b>Can Construction Debris Be Burned?</b>	It is illegal to burn any material resulting from a construction, renovation or demolition project.
<b>When is Burning Allowed?</b>	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 <b>1-800-323-BURN</b> for current burn ban information.
<b>When is Burning Considered a Nuisance?</b>	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.

# Recreational Burning

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

Wahkiakum	Lewis	Cowlitz	Clark	Skamania
(360) 795-3067	1-800-633-0709 SWCAA	1-800-633-0709 SWCAA	(360) 397-2186	(509) 427-9448
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No permit is required if built with charcoal or firewood, and if less than 3x3x2 feet.</li> <li>Landowner permission is required.</li> <li>No burning is allowed on state land except in designated campgrounds.</li> <li>For piles in excess of 3x3x2 feet, call (360) 795-3067.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No permit is required if built with charcoal or firewood, and if less than 3x3x2 feet.</li> <li>Landowner permission is required.</li> <li>No burning is allowed on state land except in designated campgrounds.</li> <li>For piles in excess of 3x3x2 feet, call Southwest Clean Air Agency (SWCAA) at 1-800-633-0709.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No permit is required if built with charcoal or firewood, and if less than 3x3x2 feet.</li> <li>Landowner permission is required.</li> <li>No burning is allowed on state land except in designated campgrounds.</li> <li>Recreational fires in excess of 3x3x2 feet are not allowed within urban areas. Outside of urban areas, call your local fire department or town hall for a free permit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No permit is required if built with charcoal or firewood, and if less than 3x3x2 feet.</li> <li>Landowner permission is required. No burning is allowed on state land except in designated campgrounds.</li> <li>Piles in excess of 3x3x2 feet require a free, written permit that can be obtained from your local fire department.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No permit is required if built with charcoal or firewood, and if less than 3x3x2 feet.</li> <li>For recreational fires in excess of 4x4x3 feet, a small fire permit is required that may be obtained from your local fire station, town hall or by calling Skamania County Public Works at (509) 427-9448.</li> <li>Landowner permission is required.</li> <li>No burning is allowed on state land except in designated campgrounds.</li> </ul>

Always obtain the landowners permission before lighting any fire.

No burning is allowed on state land except in designated campgrounds.

Burning of all material, except firewood and natural vegetation grown on the property, is prohibited.

Clean, no-dirt fire. Dry fuel burns hot, clean and quick. Avoid burning wet woody debris. A clean fire creates less smoke.

There should always be at least one person age 16 or older who is capable of putting out the fire.

Completely extinguish the fire. Drown the fire with water. Make sure all embers, coals, and sticks are wet. Move rocks—there may be burning embers underneath. Keep a charged garden hose or 2 five-gallon buckets of water and a shovel or rake on hand at all times.

Keep the campfire small. A good bed of coals or a small fire surrounded by rocks gives plenty of heat.

Never leave a campfire unattended. Even a small breeze can quickly cause the fire to spread.

Clear a firebreak around your campfire that is free of flammable material. The rule of thumb is 1.5 times the height of the campfire.

4.5 FEET OR MORE

3 FEET FIRE WIDTH

25 FEET

The fire should be 25 feet away from any structure or standing timber.