

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.

Silvicultural Burning and Burning on Unimproved Property

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

JURISDICTION OF THE WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

No permit is required if the burn meets **ALL** of the following criteria:

- At least one person age 16 or older who is capable of putting out the fire and has a method of calling 9-1-1 must be in attendance at all times.
- Only one pile is burning at a time.
- Winds are calm or light and do not exceed 7 to 10 miles per hour.
- A fire break is clear and is free of flammable material. Rule of thumb is 1.5 times the height of the pile.
- Between July 1 and October 15, the pile is less than 4 feet across OR between October 16 and June 30, the pile is less than 10 feet across.

A permit is required when any one of the Conditions listed cannot be met.

The permit fee is based on the estimated fuel. At time of printing, the permit fee for piles up to 100 tons is \$25.50. See DNR's website (<http://www.dnr.wa.gov>) for a complete fee schedule. Call DNR's Pacific Cascade Regional Office at (360) 577-2025 to acquire a burn permit. Allow up to one week for the permit.

DNR investigates and pursues recovery of all reasonable expenses for wildfires started through negligence on DNR protected lands. Follow your permit to stay safe and legal.

What Is Unimproved Land?

Lands that are not irrigated, mowed, or otherwise maintained including pastures, brush lands, scrub forests and forest.

Rule Burn
A FIRE THAT DOES NOT REQUIRE A PERMIT

4 feet OR 10 feet

JULY 1 TO OCTOBER 15 | OCTOBER 16 TO JUNE 30

Not more than one burn pile at a time.

Permit Burn
A PERMIT IS REQUIRED IF THE PILE EXCEEDS REQUIREMENTS ALLOWED BY THE RULE BURN

Burn only when winds are calm or light, and do not exceed 7-10 miles per hour.

TIP Dry fuel burns hot, clean and quick. Avoid burning wet debris. A clean fire creates less smoke.

Keep shovels, axes and a rake on site.

At least one person age 16 or older who is capable of putting the fire out must be in attendance at all times, with a method to contact 9-1-1 if needed.

Keep sufficient tools and water available. See permit for specific recommendations and requirements.

9-1-1

WATER TRUCK

Burn pile must be 50 feet away from any structure, standing timber or power lines. Burns need to be 500 feet from logging slash. Contact DNR offices for more details.

PERMITTED BURN
A permit is required if the pile exceeds requirements allowed by the Rule Burn.

Clear all flammable material within 1.5 times the height of the pile.