



Cowlitz County

County Administration Building
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www.co.cowlitz.wa.us

News Release

Updated Emergency Burn Ban in Effect on June 24, 2015

June 24, 2015

Effective 12:01 a.m., June 24, 2015, Cowlitz County, in cooperation with emergency service officials from Clark and other counties, will be enacting restrictions on all outdoor burning. On June 24th all land clearing, residential and silvicultural burning will be restricted until further notice. The Cowlitz County Fire Marshal is rescinding all burn permits as of June 24th; they can be reissued or extended when the ban is lifted.

Contact

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Building Official
Fire Marshal's Office
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In an effort to have predictable and consistent burn ban dates, Cowlitz and Clark counties implemented a policy to ban outdoor burning from June 24th through Sept. 30th this year due to extreme fire hazard conditions that experts have predicted to start earlier than normal. "Please contact the Cowlitz County Fire Marshal's Office to be sure the ban has been lifted before resuming any burning after September 30," said Cowlitz County Building Official Charlie Duncan.

Recreational campfires are allowed if built in improved fire pits in designated campgrounds, such as those typically found in local, county, and state parks and in commercial campgrounds. On private land, campfires are permitted with the landowner's permission if built in the following approved manner:

- In a metal, stone or masonry lined fire pit such as those seen in approved campgrounds.
- They may not exceed three-feet in diameter,
- They must have an area at least ten-feet around them cleared of all flammable material and at least 25-feet of clearance from structures, standing timber and overhead fuels.
- Campfires must be attended at all times by a responsible person at least 16-years old with the ability and tools to extinguish the fire, such as a shovel and either five gallons of water or a connected and charged water hose.

Recreational campfires may not cause a smoke or odor nuisance to surrounding properties and may be subject to seasonal fire safety burn bans upon further updated notification from the Fire Marshal's Office.

Please remember to completely extinguish campfires by pouring water or moist soil in them and stirring with a shovel until all parts are cool to the touch. The use of self-contained camp stoves is encouraged as an alternative.

For more information, please contact the Cowlitz County Fire Marshal's Office at (360) 577-3052 or visit the County's website at www.co.cowlitz.wa.us.

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