



Central Pierce Fire & Rescue Outdoor Burning



Washington State law prohibits residential burning and land-clearing fires in all areas served by Central Pierce Fire & Rescue. This means the burning of yard waste (leaves, branches, twigs, etc.) is not allowed. Using burn barrels and burning any type of garbage is also prohibited. Agricultural burns are legal with a permit from Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA).

Yard waste (grass clippings, branches smaller than 4" in diameter, etc.) is accepted at the LRI Hidden Valley Transfer Station free of charge.

No paper permits are issued from Central Pierce Fire & Rescue for Recreational Fires.

Call 911 and report an illegal burn.

RECREATIONAL FIRES DEFINED

Recreational fires are allowed within Central Pierce Fire & Rescue on your private property. According to State rules the term "recreational fires" means, "Cooking fires and camp fires using charcoal or firewood for cooking or pleasure. Fires used for debris disposal purposes are not considered recreational fires."

RECREATIONAL FIRE REQUIREMENTS

- No garbage, dead animals, asphalt, petroleum products, paint, rubber products, tires, plastic, paper products, plywood, finished lumber or particle board may be burned.
- Burn barrels shall not be utilized for burning.
- Burning that causes a detriment to health, safety or welfare of any person, damage to property or business or causes a nuisance is considered illegal.

AUTHORIZED RECREATIONAL FIRES

- Fires shall consist of dry seasoned firewood, manufactured (Dura-flame/presto) logs or charcoal briquettes.
- Burning of yard waste is not allowed in recreational fire pits (no branches, shrubbery, or wet wood).
- Recreational/campfires are allowed if built in metal or concrete lined fire pits like those located in designated campgrounds, local, county, state parks and in commercial campgrounds. The use of self-contained camp stoves is encouraged.
- Fires shall not be within twenty-five (25) feet of a structure.
- Fires shall not be within ten (10) feet of adjoining property lines, fences, or decks.
- Pits shall not exceed three (3) feet in diameter and two (2) feet in height. The depth of the pit shall be a minimum of four (4) inches and capable of containing all burned material.
- A minimum of ten (10) feet shall be maintained around the entire pit, free of grass, shrubbery, weeds, vegetation and any other combustible material, including overhanging limbs from trees.
- Fires shall be attended at all times by an alert individual with immediate access to a shovel and either five (5) gallons of water or a connected and charged water hose.

COMPLAINTS / VIOLATIONS

It is unlawful for any person to allow sufficient quantities of particulate matter or air contaminants to be injurious to human health, plant or animal life, or property, or to unreasonably interfere with enjoyment of life and property. When at the scene, the Fire District's Officer, at his/her discretion, may allow the fire to continue if he/she determines this **is** indeed, an authorized recreational fire. If the fire is determined to be hazardous or infringing on another's right, the **fire will be extinguished immediately.**

Failure to comply with requirements can lead to the issuing of a citation by PSCAA. The maximum penalty is \$17,000.00 a day and/or imprisonment for not more than ninety (90) days. For air quality burn ban info call 1-800-595-4341 ([PSCAA](#)). For fire safety burn ban info call 253.798.7179 ([PC Fire Marshal](#)).

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S:/Prevention and Education/Division Secured Documents/Recreational Burns