

Outdoor Fires

Know the law before you burn.



PUGET SOUND
Clean Air Agency

HEALTH EFFECTS OF BREATHING SMOKE

Smoke of all types is bad for your health, whether it's from cigarettes or trucks or burning garbage, leaves, or wood. Some of these activities are also illegal.

SHORT TERM EFFECTS

- Asthma attacks
- Headaches
- Irritated eyes, lung, throat, sinuses
- Risk of heart attacks and strokes
- Trouble breathing

LONG TERM EFFECTS

- Cancer
- Chronic lung disease
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
- Premature death
- Risk of heart attack or stroke

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT OUTDOOR FIRES

KNOW THE LAWS



Always check with your local fire department to learn the burning rules in your area before starting any outdoor fire and visit pscleanair.gov/outdoorfires.

DON'T GET BURNED



Fines for outdoor burning violations typically start at \$1,000 and can exceed \$17,000 per day.

FIRES CANNOT CAUSE A NUISANCE TO NEIGHBORS



If smoke from your fire bothers your neighbors or damages their property, you must put it out immediately.

BURNING YARD WASTE IS MOSTLY BANNED



Urbanized areas do not permit burning branches, weeds, grass clippings, etc. Check with your local fire district to learn about your area's restrictions or permit requirements. Keep reading to find alternatives.

WHAT IS A RECREATIONAL FIRE?



Recreational fires are on private property or designated public locations and include cooking fires, campfires, and bonfires (permit required); as well as fires lit in free-standing devices. The fuel must be limited to seasoned wood, manufactured logs, charcoal, natural gas, or propane. Fires used for debris disposal are not considered recreational fires.

SPLIT, STACK, COVER, AND STORE FIREWOOD



Burn only dry, seasoned firewood or manufactured logs. Wood should be dried for at least one year before burning.

HAULED MATERIAL



Outdoor fires cannot include material hauled from another property unless it is dry, seasoned firewood.

BURNING TRASH IS ILLEGAL, EVERYWHERE, ALL THE TIME



Trash is anything that is not dry, seasoned firewood, manufactured logs, or charcoal. Burn barrels are also illegal.

LAND-CLEARING FIRES ARE PROHIBITED



In King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties developers must use alternatives to burning including: on-site chipping and removal, or off-site wood waste recycling.

AGRICULTURAL BURNING



Commercial agricultural operations can apply for a permit to burn at psc.cleanair.gov/agburnpermit or by calling 206-343-8800.

CLEAN, HEALTHY ALTERNATIVES TO BURNING YARD WASTE

CURB IT



Sign up with your county solid waste department to have yard waste picked up at your curb, or self-haul to a nearby recycling station.

COMPOST IT



Let your yard waste decompose naturally to create a nutrient-rich fertilizer for your soil.

CHIP IT



Rent or hire a chipping machine to turn branches into great mulch for your yard.

WHAT TO DO IF SMOKE FROM A FIRE IS AFFECTING YOU



If smoke from a fire is affecting you, try speaking to the person responsible. In most cases, they do not realize their fire is causing an issue. Call 911 immediately if the smoke or fire causes an emergency.



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