PLEASE READ THESE
PERMIT CONDITIONS
VERY CAREFULLY
THE COSTS ASSOCIATED
WITH ILLEGAL BURNING
VIOLATIONS CAN
BECOME

VERY EXPENSIVE

ONLY
RECREATIONAL
CAMPFIRES ARE
PERMITTED

WHATCOM COUNTY
FIRE DISTRICT #17
4332 SUCIA DRIVE
FERNDALE, WA. 98248
360-384-1480
Info@wcfd17.org

ALTERNATIVES TO BURNING

WHATCOM COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS SEVERAL OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR FOR THE DISPOSAL OF RESIDENTIAL YARD WASTE LISTED ON THEIR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

www.whatcomcounty.us/805/Disposal-Options

OUTDOOR BURNING

WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #17

RULES
&
STANDARDS
FOR PERMITTED
RECREATIONAL
CAMP FIRES

RCW 52.12.101

GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR OUTDOOR BURNING

- Effective January 1st, 2020 all residential yard debris, beach debris, and land clearing fires are no longer permitted in Whatcom County Fire District #17.
- Only recreational campfires that meet specific conditions are permitted by the fire district.
- You must have the legal property owners written permission prior to conducting any recreational campfires on any properties.
- Fires are not permitted when winds exceed 7 mph.
- Any fire that produces smoke, odor, or ash that the fire department deems offensive to neighboring properties or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous are not permitted and must be extinguished immediately.
- No fires of any kind are permitted during a posted Stage #2 burn ban.
- Gas weed burning devices are strictly prohibited.
- Gas fireplace appliances, including those with chimneys are permitted as recreational campfires and must comply with those conditions with the following exception. Setback rules for these applications are only 15 feet.

DO I NEED A PERMIT FOR A RECREATIONAL CAMP FIRE ?

AFTER YOU HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND, AND AGREE TO COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS THIS DOCUMENT WILL SERVE AS YOUR WRITTEN PERMIT TO CONDUCT A RECREATIONAL CAMP FIRE
YOU MUST MEET ALL CONDITIONS!

- Recreational campfires 3 feet in diameter or smaller are permitted under the following conditions:
- Recreational campfires shall consist of charcoal or split dry firewood only and are for cooking or pleasure only.
- Recreational campfires must be in an approved enclosure no larger than 3 feet in diameter.
- The enclosure must be a minimum of 16 inches high (or 8" high & 8" deep) and made of cement, rock, or #10 gauge steel.
- Firewood in enclosure must be kept lower than the side walls of the enclosure.
- The enclosure must be at least **25 feet** away from all structures, standing timber, vehicles, trailers, power lines, vegetation, or any other combustible materials. **CONTINUED** ⟶
- Tree branches must be cleared to a height of at least 15 feet above the enclosure
- A charged garden hose capable of reaching the fire or 2 five gallon buckets of water must be on the site at all times
- One person at least 16 years of age must be present at all times and must have a method to call 911 if needed
- The fire must be attended until out cold and completely extinguished before leaving it.
- **PROHIBITED MATERIALS**: Brush, leaves, tree trimmings, blackberry bushes, grass, beach grass, weeds, seaweed, any paper products, cardboard, construction materials, household garbage, rubber, petroleum products, and fireworks. **Any materials other than charcoal or split dry firewood ARE NOT permitted to be burned at any time, except for a small amount of paper needed to start your recreational fire.**
- The fire department has the authority to at any time extinguish any fire that creates excessive smoke and odor, impacts neighboring properties, or is in violation of these adopted rules & standards and may impose charges for the associated response and suppression costs. Still have questions? Call the Fire Department at (360) 384-1480 for more information. We want you to be informed and be safe!

ALL VIOLATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO RCW 52.12.108 WHICH ALLOWS THE FIRE DISTRICT BY LAW TO CHARGE FEES FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSES AND SUPPRESSION. IN ADDITION, ALL VIOLATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO RCW 52.12.106 WHICH UNDER WASHINGTON STATE LAW IS DEEMED A MISDEMEANOR CRIME.