



OUTDOOR BURNING

WHATCOM
COUNTY
FIRE DISTRICT #17

RULES
&
STANDARDS
FOR

RECREATIONAL
RESIDENTIAL FIRES

RCW 52 .12.101

WHATCOM COUNTY
FIRE DISTRICT #17
4332 SUCIA DRIVE
FERNDALE, WA. 98248
360-384-1480
wcf17@comcast.net



PLEASE READ THESE RULES
AND STANDARDS VERY
CAREFULLY
THE COSTS ASSOCIATED
WITH ILLEGAL BURNING
VIOLATIONS
CAN BE VERY EXPENSIVE

GENERAL RULES AND STANDARDS

- Recreational fires no larger than 3 feet in diameter do not require a permit but are subject to all rules and standards for recreational fires as adopted by the fire district
- Residential fires no larger than 4 feet in diameter do not require a permit but are subject to all rules and standards for residential fires as adopted by the fire district
- No fires of any kind over 6 feet in diameter permitted
- All fires must be attended at all times by a person at least 16 years of age and must have a method to call 911 if needed
- Only natural vegetation fires are permitted. Not even paper is allowed to be burned (except for the amount necessary to start the fire)
- Burning garbage, petroleum products, paints, plastics, rubber, paper, cardboard, treated wood, construction/demolition debris, metal, or any substance (other than natural vegetation) that normally releases toxic emissions, dense smoke, or obnoxious odors when burned are prohibited.
- Burn barrels of any type are prohibited
- Burning any type of construction, renovation, or demolition projects is prohibited
- Only materials generated on site are permitted to burn
- Burning is only permitted during daylight hours. (except recreational fires)
- No burning of any kind when winds exceed 10 mph
- All fires must not produce smoke, odor, or ash that unreasonably impacts neighboring properties
- Any fire that produces smoke, odor, or ash that unreasonably impacts neighboring properties or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous is prohibited and must be extinguished
- Any burning requires written permission from the land owner
- No outdoor fires are permitted during a district burn ban
- Permits may be canceled for any rule violations

ALL VIOLATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO RCW 52.12.108 WHICH BY LAW ALLOWS THE FIRE DISTRICT TO COLLECT FOR FIRE SUPPRESSION RESPONSES AND IN ADDITION UNDER RCW 52.12.106 ARE PUNISHABLE BY A MISDEMEANOR CRIME

RECREATIONAL FIRES

- Recreational fires consist of charcoal or split dry firewood and are for cooking or pleasure only. Recreational fires 3 feet in diameter or smaller do not require a permit if the following conditions are met.
- Recreational fires consist of charcoal or split dry firewood and are for cooking or pleasure only.
- SAWN LUMBER, BRUSH, LEAVES, GRASS, OR ANY PAPER PRODUCTS ARE PROHIBITED EXCEPT A SMALL AMOUNT TO START THE FIRE
- The fire is in an enclosure no larger than 3 feet across.
- The enclosure must be a minimum of 16 inches high and made of cement block, rock, or #10 gauge steel.
- Material to be burned must be kept lower than the side walls of the enclosure
- A charged garden hose capable of reaching the fire of 2 five gallon buckets of water must be on site at all times
- A shovel or rake must be on site at all times
- The fire must be at least **25 feet** away from structures, standing timber, vehicles, power lines, vegetation, or any combustible materials
- Tree branches must be cleared to a height of 15 feet above the enclosure
- One person at least 16 years of age must be in attendance at all times and must have a method to call 911 if needed
- Written permission from the property owner must be obtained before burning
- Fire must be attended until dead out
- No burning when winds exceed 10 mph
- Smoke, odor, or ash that unreasonably impacts neighboring properties is prohibited
- The fire department has the authority to cancel any permit or extinguish any fire that creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation

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RESIDENTIAL FIRES

- Residential fires are for the burning of natural vegetation produced by property maintenance such as leaves, prunings, and brush.
- Residential fires 4 feet in diameter and smaller do not require a written permit but are subject to all the following conditions.
- Residential fires over 4 feet in diameter require a written permit and in addition are also subject to the following conditions
- No residential fires over 6 feet in diameter are permitted SAWN LUMBER, BRUSH, LEAVES, GRASS, OR ANY PAPER PRODUCTS ARE PROHIBITED EXCEPT A SMALL AMOUNT TO START THE FIRE
- A shovel or rake must be on site at all times A charged garden hose capable of reaching the fire of 2 five gallon buckets of water must be on site at all times
- Only one pile may be burned at one time
- The fire must be at least **50 feet** away from structures, standing timber, vehicles, power lines, vegetation, or any combustible materials
- All fires must be contained within a ground break (bare ground) The fire break must be equal to the size of the pile
- One person at least 16 years of age must be in attendance at all times and must have a method to call 911 if needed
- Written permission from the property owner must be obtained before burning
- No burning when winds exceed 10 mph
- Smoke, odor, or ash that unreasonably impacts neighboring properties is prohibited
- The fire must be attended until dead out
- The fire department has the authority to cancel any permit or extinguish any fire that creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation
- Written permits are \$20.00 (US) and are issued for a period of 72 hours.
- Written permits are issued during normal business hours at the fire district office located at 4332 Sucia Drive, Ferndale, Washington, 98248. Phone 360-384-1480

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