



PRESS RELEASE

Date: July 9, 2021

Contact: Doyle Sanford, Lewis County Fire Marshal

Release #: 6

Lewis County Burn Restrictions Expanded- Total Burn Ban in Effect

With the continued dry weather, the Lewis County Board of County Commissioners and Lewis County Fire Marshal will expand the burn restrictions for all of unincorporated Lewis County, Washington, effective 12:01 A.M., July 10, 2021.

This modification and upgrade will prohibit all outdoor burning which includes recreational fires. Until modified by the Lewis County Board of County Commissioners or the Lewis County Fire Marshal, **only liquid gas or propane camp stoves that do not use solid briquettes and have on/off controls are permitted.** This decision was made due to the continued, and in some parts of unincorporated Lewis County, worsening dry season conditions.

The Lewis County Fire Marshal, in coordination with the Chiefs of local fire districts strongly urge all county residents and property owners to be attentive to the conditions of their properties through proactive fire prevention measures. While the Board of County Commissioners and the Fire Marshal recognize that this decision may alter recreational plans, the decision to expand the burn restriction to a total burn ban reflects the county's priority of public safety and the protection of personnel, as well as property.

The open burning restrictions, including this modification to put in place a total burn ban, will remain in effect until such discontinuance is modified or rescinded by the Board of County Commissioners. A public announcement of the lifting of the restrictions and ban will be released to the public at that time.

For further information concerning outdoor burning and/or the restrictions being imposed, please contact Doyle Sanford, Lewis County Fire Marshal, at (360)740-2696. The Fire Marshal's office is in the Lewis County Public Services building, located at 2025 NE Kresky Avenue, Chehalis, Washington. You may also visit the Lewis County website at <https://lewiscountywa.gov/communitydevelopment>



TOTAL BURN BAN RULES

For Unincorporated Lewis County & Tacoma Power Parks



Unincorporated Lewis County & Tacoma Power Parks are under burn bans until further notice.
Please note these rules for cooking/lighting devices:

ALLOWED (GAS ONLY)

- Propane or pressurized gas camp stoves and barbecues (NO briquettes)
- Pressurized gas lights
- Candles inside glass or metal containers
- Battery-powered or electric lights
- Propane fire pit



NOT ALLOWED

- Recreational wood fires
- Charcoal briquettes
- Lanterns, stoves and Tiki-torches that use non-pressurized liquid fuel
- Solid fuel and citronella candles not inside of glass or metal containers
- Fireworks
- Any incendiary devices, such as exploding targets, sky lanterns or tracer ammunition
- Smoking outside of cleared areas in parks



Questions?

Lewis County – <http://lewiscountywa.gov> or call (360)740-1146

Department of Natural Resources – <https://fortress.wa.gov/dnr/protection/firedanger/>

COMMISSIONER'S ORDER

NUMBER 202111

**STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

Hilary S. Franz, Commissioner of Public Lands

WHEREAS, RCW 76.04 defines the lands within the State of Washington where the Department of Natural Resources is responsible for fire protection; and

WHEREAS, RCW 76.04 authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to regulate the use of fire on the forest lands for which it has fire protection responsibility; and

WHEREAS, RCW 76.04 authorizes the Department of Natural Resources in times and localities of unusual fire danger to prohibit the use of fire in those locations; and

WHEREAS, unusual fire danger exists and is forecast to continue through September 30, 2021, on forest lands protected by the Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, wildfires result in large expenditures of public funding that can be avoided through prudent actions to prevent them;

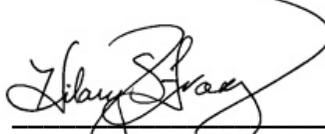
THEREFORE, outdoor burning, the use of charcoal briquettes, and prescribed burns are banned on all forest lands within the State of Washington under Department of Natural Resources fire protection through September 30, 2021. This date may be extended or shortened based upon ongoing fire conditions. The following exceptions will apply:

1. As approved in writing by the Commissioner of Public Lands or Department Supervisor, approved prescribed fire for ecological purposes, when conducted by trained professionals.
2. As approved in writing by the Commissioner of Public Lands or Department Supervisor when there are compelling reasons for such an exception.

Effective July 2, 2021, this order takes precedence over and supersedes all other burn bans currently in effect on forest lands within the state of Washington under Department of Natural Resources fire protection.

Dated this 1st day of July, 2021.

**STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**



**Hilary S. Franz
Commissioner of Public Lands**



STATE OF WASHINGTON
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE —

EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

21-10

WILDFIRES – BURN BAN

WHEREAS, Washington State is experiencing an historic drought that is exacerbating fire danger across our state, and abnormally high temperatures and dry conditions have led to the early development of dangerous fire fuel conditions throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, Washington State and the Pacific Northwest experienced an unprecedented, extreme, and record-breaking hot weather event during June 25-28, 2021; and

WHEREAS, current National Weather Service forecasts predict sustained above normal temperatures throughout the state including near-record high temperatures in many areas, increased threat of lightning in some areas, and windy conditions, which, when combined with the existing high-risk fire-fuel conditions, create an increased risk of fast-spreading wildfires that would require an immediate response in any area of the state; and

WHEREAS, the threat to life and property from wildfire is significant and may cause extensive damage to homes, businesses, public facilities, natural resources, agricultural lands, infrastructure, and utilities, and may impact the life and health of the people of Washington State, which would be a public disaster that affects life, health, property, and/or the public peace; and

WHEREAS, the state of Washington has already experienced multiple wildfires, and firefighting resources throughout the state may quickly become limited due to existing and projected fire conditions and activities throughout the region, and existing firefighting resources may already be committed to fighting wildfires out-of-state; and

WHEREAS, because available firefighting resources may not be adequate to address an outbreak of simultaneous large wildfires that are made more likely by the above-noted conditions, the Washington National Guard and State Guard may be needed to assist local jurisdictions and state agencies throughout the state of Washington with a public disaster and for the public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Military Department is monitoring and coordinating supporting actions through the State Emergency Operations Center, implementing emergency response procedures, coordinating resources to support local officials in alleviating the immediate social and economic impacts to people, property, and infrastructure, and

continuing to assess the wildfire danger resulting from existing high-risk weather and fire fuel conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), recognizing that due to the same factors described in this proclamation an unusual fire danger exists, on July 1, 2021, banned (with certain limited exceptions) outdoor burning, the use of charcoal briquettes, and prescribed burns on forest lands within the state of Washington under DNR jurisdiction through September 30, 2021; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay R. Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, as a result of the above-noted situation and under Chapters 38.52 and 43.06 RCW, do hereby proclaim that a State of Emergency exists throughout the state of Washington, and direct the plans and procedures in the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* be implemented. State agencies and departments are directed to utilize state resources in accordance with the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and to do everything reasonably possible to assist affected political subdivisions in an effort to respond to and recover from the event.

Under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(1)(i), to preserve and maintain life, health, property or the public peace, I also hereby impose a temporary outdoor burn ban by prohibiting all outdoor and agricultural burning in all 39 Washington Counties until noon on Thursday, September 30, 2021. The ban may be ended or extended if conditions warrant. Except as provided herein, prohibited outdoor burning includes but is not limited to campfires, bonfires, residential yard debris clean-up, trash disposal, land clearing, weed abatement, and agricultural burning activity. **This prohibition does not include the following activities:** use of liquid fueled or gas-fueled stoves over a non-flammable surface and at least five feet from flammable vegetation; use of charcoal grills at private residences over a non-flammable surface and at least five feet from flammable vegetation; agricultural burning pursuant to a fire permit issued by a local authority in accordance with existing statutes and rules; and campfires at state, county and municipal parks and campgrounds, or small campfires contained in a structure on private property, in accordance with current and ongoing restrictions imposed by the agency or property owner with legal authority over the park, campground, or property. Nothing in this order supersedes more restrictive provisions of the counties, municipalities, fire districts, other political subdivisions, or public or private landowners. Nothing in this order supersedes fire or fireworks permits issued by a local authority that provide specific written approval for the prescribed burning activity. This order does not apply to firefighting activities by authorized firefighters acting in accordance with the firefighting plan.

As a result of this event, I also hereby order into active state service the organized militia of Washington State to include the National Guard and the State Guard, or such part thereof as may be necessary in the opinion of The Adjutant General, to perform such duties as directed by competent authority of the Washington Military Department in addressing this event. These duties shall include the use of Washington State Military Department helicopters to fly in support of wildfire suppression efforts.



PRESS RELEASE

Date: June 23, 2021
Contact: Doyle Sanford, Building Official/Fire Marshal
Phone: 360.740.2696
Release #: 4

Lewis County Burn Restrictions – Effective 12:01 A.M., June 25, 2021

Effective 12:01 A.M., June 25, 2021, the Lewis County Fire Marshal will be enacting burn restrictions on outdoor burning for all of unincorporated Lewis County, Washington.

After careful review of the current and extended weather forecast, the Lewis County Commissioners, Community Development Director and Fire Marshal have determined that current weather conditions within Lewis County have created substantial fire dangers. It has been determined there is a need to enact restriction on outdoor burning on all lands regulated by the Lewis County EXCEPT for recreational campfires in designated campgrounds and on private lands, if built in the following manner:

- The campfire shall be no greater than 3-feet in diameter and have a ring constructed of metal, stone or brick 8-inches above surface with a 2-foot wide area cleared down to exposed soil surrounding the outside of the pit.
- The campfire shall have an area at least 10-feet around it cleared of all flammable material and at least 20-feet of clearance from overhead flammable materials or fuels.
- The campfire must be attended at all times by a responsible person at least 16-years old with the ability to extinguish the fire with a shovel and a 5-gallon bucket of water or with a connected and charged water hose.

- 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.

The burning restriction **DOES** apply to applicants with a current open burning permit. The current burning permit expiration date will **NOW** be 12:00 P.M., Thursday, June 24, 2021.

The burn ban will be in place until the conditions improve. All land clearing, residential and silvicultural burning will be restricted until further notice.

For further information concerning outdoor burning and/or the restrictions being imposed, please contact Doyle Sanford, Lewis County Fire Marshal, at (360) 740-2696. The Fire Marshal's office is in the Lewis County Public Services building, located at 2025 NE Kresky Avenue, Chehalis, Washington.

<https://lewiscountywa.gov/departments/community-development/>

