

**Joint News Release
of
Southwest Air Pollution Control Authority
Clark County Fire Marshal
Department of Natural Resources**

(Issued September 30, 1993)

PHASE OUT OF OPEN BURNING IN NONATTAINMENT AREA CONTINUES

Current dry weather conditions are causing a high risk of fires. This means the last opportunity for burning of natural vegetation by residents living within the Phase Two boundary (see map) must be delayed until October 11 and extend through October 31. Some residents may be confused by who can and can not burn natural vegetation in southern Clark County. If you do not know the boundaries of the Phase Two area, a map is available from the Southwest Air Pollution Control Authority (SWAPCA). The area, in approximate terms, runs from north of 119th Street to about 159th Street and from east of 162nd Avenue to Washougal's city limits.

This phase-out of open burning in southern Clark County began in Fall 1992 when Phase One residents had their last opportunity to burn yard debris. A curbside pickup program has begun in Phase One and residents are encouraged to contact the Clark County Disposal Group to subscribe to this program. "The phase-out of open burning in the Phase One area has worked more smoothly than expected and we hope for similar success in the Phase Two area," said Robert Elliott, Executive Director of the Southwest Air Pollution Control Authority. Elliott said that fewer violation notices have been issued than expected for violating the burning ban rules. He also reminded residents living within the Phase One area that they have already had their last opportunity to burn natural vegetation and that this announcement does not apply to them. "The successful phase-out of open burning in the nonattainment area can be attributed to the excellent cooperation between the Clark County Fire Marshal, Department of Natural Resources, Clark County Solid Waste Department and the Southwest Air Pollution Control Authority," said Elliott.

Coinciding with this general phase-out of open burning, Department of Natural Resources officials want the general public to know that they will stop issuing permits to burn silvicultural/land clearing debris on "unimproved" property at the same time. Also, DNR permitted burning within the Phase Three boundary will be stopped by the Spring of 1994. Applications for silvicultural/land clearing burn permits in Phase Two must be received by the DNR no later than October 18, 1993. Requests to the DNR are generally for larger piles of natural vegetation, such as stumps and other similar debris. DNR is also mandated by the Clean Air Act to reduce, in specific increments, the amount of air pollution from their burning activities. "The burning of silvicultural/land clearing debris has the potential to emit considerable amounts of smoke if permit conditions are not closely adhered to," said Russ

Kastberg, Assistant Regional Manager of the Department of Natural Resources. Kastberg said that developing Smoke Management Plans for land clearing burn permits costs the DNR considerable amounts of time and money that can no longer be justified with a tight state budget and in a rapidly growing urban area where residents near the permitted fire can be exposed to a smoke nuisance from these fires.

David Lynam, Clark County Fire Marshal, clarified that his organization is responsible for issuing land clearing permits on "improved" property and is considering a similar timeframe as DNR for ceasing land clearing permits in the nonattainment area. As the last step of phasing out open burning within the nonattainment area, SWAPCA's Board of Directors will be deciding in early 1994 when residents in the Phase Three area will have a final 3 week opportunity to burn natural vegetation. This burn period will occur in either the Spring of 1994, Fall of 1994 or a combination of both periods. This decision will be based on several factors, including the probable atmospheric conditions for dispersal of smoke and a determination that other alternatives are available to residents in this area.

The requirements for residents of northern Clark County (i.e., north of 159th Street) wanting to burn natural vegetation also changes on October 11, 1993. Residents living in northern Clark County desiring to burn small piles (i.e., less than 10 feet in diameter) of natural vegetation will be required to stop by their nearest fire station to pickup a no-cost burning permit. The permit's restriction and instructions are included on the form. Natural vegetation is the only material allowed to be burned. Fires larger than 10 feet in diameter will require that the individual fill out a special application form at the Clark County Fire Marshal's office and pay a \$50 fee for a written permit. Any questions about open burning in Clark County can be addressed by the Southwest Air Pollution Control Authority at 574-3058.

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Phase-out Of Outdoor Burning Within The Southern Portion of Clark County:

- This area of the County has not met Federal Standards for Carbon Monoxide levels.
- Smoke from outdoor burning produces Carbon Monoxide pollutants.
- Outdoor burning is being banned in phases within this "nonattainment" area.

Northern Clark County

Permits are now required for all open burning within the City Limits of Battle Ground, LaCenter, Ridgefield and Yacolt.

A permit program is currently being developed outside City Limits, and will be implemented October 1, 1993.

Annual Permits For Small Fires:

- Self-issue
- No Fee
- Call before burning

Written Permits For Larger Fire:

- Site inspection
- Permit fees
- Specific requirements

