

# CLARK COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL LIFTS RECREATIONAL FIRE BAN

News Release from **Clark Co. WA Communications**

*Posted on FlashAlert: September 20th, 2021 5:02 PM*

Vancouver, Wash. – The Clark County Fire Marshal Dan Young is lifting the ban on recreational fires in Clark County effective 12:01 am Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2021.

The county's ban on land clearing burning remains in place until further notice.

“The recent rain and cooler weather allows the county to safely lift the restriction on recreational fires,” said county Fire Marshal Dan Young.

Recreational campfires on forest lands are allowed only in improved fire pits in designated campgrounds, such as commercial campgrounds and local, county and state parks. On private land, recreational fires are permitted when built according to the following regulations:

- Recreational fires must be in a metal-, stone- or masonry-lined fire pit such as those in improved campgrounds or available at home and garden stores.
- Size may not exceed 3 feet in diameter by 2 feet in height.
- Fires must be at least 25 feet from a structure or other combustible material and have at least 20 feet of clearance from overhead fuels such as tree limbs, patio covers or carports.
- Fires must be attended at all times by a responsible person at least 16 years old who has the ability and tools to extinguish the fire. Tools include a shovel and either five gallons of water or a connected and charged water hose.
- Portable outdoor fireplaces, also known as patio fireplaces, designed to burn solid wood should not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material and must always be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Completely extinguish recreational fires by covering them with water or moist soil and stirring with a shovel until all parts are cool to the touch.
- Self-contained camp stoves are a safe and easy alternative to campfires.

For more information, please contact the Fire Marshal's Office at 564.397.2186 or visit the county's website at [www.clark.wa.gov/development/fire/burning.html](http://www.clark.wa.gov/development/fire/burning.html).

**Contact Info:**

Dan Young, Clark County Fire Marshal, 564.397.3324, [dan.young@clark.wa.gov](mailto:dan.young@clark.wa.gov)

# **CAMAS-WASHOUGAL FIRE DEPARTMENT LIFTS RECREATIONAL FIRE BAN**

News Release from **Camas-Washougal Fire Dept.**

*Posted on FlashAlert: August 22nd, 2021 11:01 AM*

Due to cooler temperatures and increased humidity, the Camas-Washougal Fire Department has lifted the recreational fire ban that has been in place since late June. Department officials will continue to monitor weather conditions in the coming weeks in case the ban needs to be enacted again. Please be safe and keep all recreational fires at least 25' away from structures and other combustible materials. Such fires may be no larger than 3' wide and 2' high and can only burn charcoal or dry natural firewood. Enclosed barbecues and commercial fireplaces may be used as per manufacturer labels.



Ridgefield, WA-

Due to the extreme fire danger, recreational fires will be prohibited in the cities of La Center, Ridgefield, Woodland, and throughout unincorporated Clark County effective 12:01 am, Saturday, July 24, 2021.

This recreational fire restriction is in addition to the general outdoor burning prohibition that was implemented on June 25.

This is a proactive measure to limit the risk of fires spreading from escaped camp and recreational fires.

This ban joins with the ban imposed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources on their lands.

Division Chief Mike Jackson stated, "The extended hot and dry weather following an unusually dry spring has lowered fuel moistures increased the risk of fires spreading quickly in grass, brush, trees, and to nearby structures."

With no precipitation in the forecast and the expectation of temperatures in the 80's and 90's to continue, the ban will be in place until sufficient rainfall occurs to lower the risk.

Creating a defensible space around a home helps prevent wildfires from spreading to a residence, or vice versa. Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue and the County Fire Marshal recommend the following measures in both rural and urban areas:

- Remove fuel
  - Within 3-5 feet of foundations, outbuildings, garages and sheds
  - Within 10 feet of a house
  - Under decks and porches
  - From gutters, eaves, porches and decks
- Cut the lawn if it is brown. Dispose of debris and cuttings.
- Prune trees so lowest branches are 6-10 feet above the ground.
- Discard all smoking materials or fire debris in metal containers, away from structures.
- Landscape with native and flame-resistant plants.

Self-contained camp stoves and barbeques, which are not banned, are a safe and easy alternative to fire pits for outdoor cooking.

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*Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue (CCFR) serves 40,000 people over 125 square miles, including the cities of La Center, Ridgefield, Woodland and the Cowlitz Indian Reservation. Our combination department includes full-time and volunteer firefighters responding to an average of 4200 fire and emergency medical calls a year. CCFR also provides a wide array of Community Risk Reduction programs including fire inspections, building plan reviews, and a Community Paramedic program. CCF&R operates under a balanced budget, and has a history of passing independent financial audits by the state.*

**Michael J. Jackson, MPA**  
***Division Chief / Fire Marshal***

*Community Risk Reduction Division*  
911 N 65th Avenue  
Ridgefield, WA 98642  
360-887-4609

# CLARK COUNTY EXPANDS BURN BAN TO INCLUDE RECREATIONAL FIRES

News Release from **Clark Co. WA Communications**

*Posted on FlashAlert: July 23rd, 2021 11:57 AM*

Vancouver, Wash. – Due to the extreme fire danger, recreational fires will be prohibited throughout unincorporated Clark County effective 12:01 am, Saturday, July 24, 2021.

This recreational fire restriction is in addition to the general outdoor burning prohibition that was implemented on June 25. According to Fire Marshal Dan Young this is a preventive measure to reduce the risk of grass or brush fires as a result of escaped campfires.

This ban joins with the ban imposed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources on their lands.

“The ongoing hot, dry weather in addition to an unusually dry spring, has us concerned with how easy it is for a fire to be ignited by an escaped ember from a recreational fire. A small campfire can accidentally spread to adjacent properties very easily with our current dry conditions,” he said.

With no precipitation in the forecast and the expectation of temperatures in the 80’s and 90’s to continue, the ban will be in place until sufficient rainfall occurs to lower the risk.

Creating a defensible space around a home helps prevent wildfires from spreading to a residence, or vice versa. Young recommends the following measures in both rural and urban areas:

- Remove fuel
  - Within 3-5 feet of foundations, outbuildings, garages and sheds
  - Within 10 feet of a house
  - Under decks and porches
  - From gutters, eaves, porches and decks
- Cut the lawn if it is brown. Dispose of debris and cuttings.
- Prune trees so lowest branches are 6-10 feet above the ground.
- Landscape with native and flame-resistant plants.

Self-contained camp stoves, which are not banned, are a safe and easy alternative for outdoor cooking.

## **Contact Info:**

Dan Young, Fire Marshal, 564.397.3324, [dan.young@clark.wa.gov](mailto:dan.young@clark.wa.gov)

# Fire Chief Issues Burn Ban

Due to the dangerously high temperatures and increased fire danger forecast for the weekend of June 25, Camas-Washougal Fire Department Fire Chief Nick Swinhart has issued an immediate ban on outdoor recreational fires in the cities of Camas and Washougal.

All outdoor fires using wood fuel are prohibited. Barbecues or grills using charcoal or gas and gas fire pits are still allowed at this time. This ban will remain in effect until further notice.

**Fire Marshal's Office**

360-834-6191

[FMO@cityofcamas.us](mailto:FMO@cityofcamas.us)



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.





# 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;

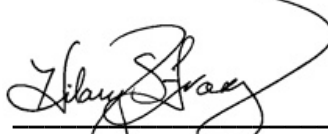
THEREFORE, outdoor burning, the use of charcoal briquettes, and prescribed burns are banned on all forest lands within the State of Washington under Department of Natural Resources fire protection through September 30, 2021. This date may be extended or shortened based upon ongoing fire conditions. The 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 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2021.

**STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**



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

# COUNTY IMPLEMENTS WARM WEATHER BURN BAN BEGINNING JUNE 25

News Release from **Clark Co. WA Communications**

*Posted on FlashAlert: June 23rd, 2021 12:50 PM*

Vancouver, Wash. – Starting at 12:01 a.m. Friday, June 25, all land clearing and residential burning in Clark County will be restricted until further notice.

The Fire Marshal also is rescinding all burning permits issued prior to the ban. Permits can be reissued or extended when the ban is lifted. The burning restrictions do not apply to federally managed lands.

“Out of abundance of caution along with DNR and neighboring counties (Pacific, Cowlitz, Lewis, Wahkiakum and Skamania) open burning in Clark County will be closed until Sept. 30, said Clark County Fire Marshal Dan Young. “Recreational fires will still be allowed except in Skamania County.

To have predictable and consistent burn bans, Clark, Cowlitz and Skamania counties jointly implement a policy to ban outdoor burning from July 15 through Sept. 30 each year. Designating this period was based on years of information about fuel conditions. However, under certain conditions, a ban can begin sooner or end later.

Recreational campfires on forest lands are allowed only in improved fire pits in designated campgrounds, such as commercial campgrounds and local, county and state parks. On private land, recreational fires are permitted when built according to the following regulations:

- Recreational fires must be in a metal-, stone- or masonry-lined fire pit such as those in improved campgrounds or available at home and garden stores.
- Size may not exceed 3 feet in diameter by 2 feet in height.
- Fires must be at least 25 feet from a structure or other combustible material and have at least 20 feet of clearance from overhead fuels such as tree limbs, patio covers or carports.
- Fires must be attended at all times by a responsible person at least 16 years old who has the ability and tools to extinguish the fire. Tools include a shovel and either five gallons of water or a connected and charged water hose.
- Portable outdoor fireplaces, also known as patio fireplaces, designed to burn solid wood should not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material and must always be used in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.
- Completely extinguish recreational fires by covering them with water or moist soil and stirring with a shovel until all parts are cool to the touch.
- Self-contained camp stoves are a safe and easy alternative to campfires.

For more information, please contact the Fire Marshal’s Office at 564.397.2186 or visit the county’s website at [www.clark.wa.gov/development/fire/burning.html](http://www.clark.wa.gov/development/fire/burning.html).

**Contact Info:**

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# VANCOUVER FIRE MARSHAL ISSUES RECREATIONAL BURN BAN

News Release from **City of Vancouver**

*Posted on FlashAlert: June 10th, 2021 8:49 AM*

Vancouver, Washington—Due to extremely dry conditions, Vancouver Fire Marshal Heidi Scarpelli has issued a total ban on recreational burning, effective at 12:01 a.m. Friday, June 11 for the city of Vancouver.

The burning ban is based on weather conditions and community fire safety needs. It will likely remain in effect throughout the summer months or until weather and fire danger conditions greatly improve. Citations may be issued to those who violate the order. An update will be provided when the recreational burn ban is lifted.

These types of fires are prohibited during the ban:

- Recreational fires and bonfires
- Campfires
- Fires in outdoor fireplaces, fire pits and chimney-type devices

Cooking outdoors in propane or charcoal barbecues approved for that type of use is still allowed during the burning ban. Cooking and heating fires in unmanaged situations, such as homeless camps, are illegal under city ordinance and will be extinguished.

“The risk for fire is extremely high and state officials have said that this year’s wildfire season has the potential to be record-breaking,” said Vancouver Fire Marshal Heidi Scarpelli. “It is vital that everyone be extra vigilant about fire safety during this time. In addition to not using any recreational fires, we also ask that smokers never put out their cigarettes in bark mulch or planters or toss lit cigarettes out car windows.”

While the recreational burn ban is in place, all fires will be illegal within the city limits. Community members are encouraged to call 9-1-1 and report any fire-related activity so it can be promptly extinguished by the fire department.

Those who violate the recreational burn ban may be subject to a fire code citation and a \$500 fine, which may include criminal penalties.

Learn more about fire and life safety prevention at [www.vanfire.org](http://www.vanfire.org).

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**Contact Info:**

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