



PRESS RELEASE

Date: August 14, 2023

Contact: Doyle Sanford, Lewis County Fire Marshal

Release #: 3

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 Immediately August 14, 2023.

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 WA State Department of DNR and 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this modification to put in place a total burn ban, will remain in effect until such discontinuance is modified or rescinded by the Board of County Commissioners.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/>

Lewis County Burn Restrictions – Effective June 09, 2023

Effective 12:01 A.M., June 09, 2023, the Lewis County Fire Marshal will be enacting burn restrictions on outdoor burning for all of unincorporated Lewis County, Washington.

Lewis County is experiencing unseasonably dry conditions and an unusual amount of runaway burn piles.

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
- 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 Midnight., Thursday, June 08, 2023.

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.

Posted: June 08, 2023