



# Cowlitz County

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County Administration Building  
207 Fourth Avenue North  
Kelso, WA 98626  
[www.co.cowlitz.wa.us](http://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us)

## News Release

### Burn Ban to include recreational fires.

**August 15, 2023**

Effective immediately Tuesday August 15<sup>TH</sup>, Cowlitz County will amend the current burn ban to include recreational fires. Due to the current high temperatures and increased fire danger recreational fires will be prohibited in all unincorporated areas of Cowlitz County.

This restriction for recreational fires is made in addition to the general outdoor burn ban implemented on July 4.

The ban is a preventive measure, while current high temperatures persist, to reduce risk of fire as a result of escaped recreational fires and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded by the Fire Marshal.

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

For more information, please contact the Cowlitz County Fire Marshal's Office at (360) 577-3052 or visit the County's website at [www.co.cowlitz.wa.us](http://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us).

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#### Contact

Mike Wilson,  
Building Official  
Fire Marshal's Office  
Phone: (360) 577-3052 Ext. 6655  
[wilsonm@cowlitzwa.gov](mailto:wilsonm@cowlitzwa.gov)



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## News Release

### Early Burn Ban in Effect Beginning July 4, 2023

July 4, 2023

Effective Tuesday July 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 a.m. Cowlitz County, in cooperation with neighboring Counties, has enacted restrictions on outdoor burning. The forecast for high temperatures and dry conditions has prompted this decision to enact the seasonal ban at this time. All land clearing, residential and silvicultural burning is restricted, and all outdoor burn permits issued prior to the ban are rescinded. The ban will remain in effect until September 30<sup>th</sup>, but may be extended by the Fire Marshal if conditions of significant fire danger persist. Burn permits can be reissued after the ban is lifted.

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Recreational campfires are allowed if built in improved fire pits in designated campgrounds, such as those typically found in local, county, and state parks and in commercial campgrounds. On private land, recreational fires are permitted with the landowner's permission if built in the following approved manner:

- In a metal, stone or masonry lined fire pit such as those seen in approved campgrounds.
- Size may not exceed 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height.
- Fires must be at least 25 feet from a structure or other combustible material and overhead fuels such as tree limbs, patio covers or carports.
- Portable outdoor or patio fireplaces should not be used within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material. Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Fires must be attended at all times by a responsible person at least 16-years old with the ability and tools to extinguish the fire, such as a shovel and either five gallons of water or a connected and charged water hose.

Please remember - remain in attendance of fire for duration of recreational burning and completely extinguish upon conclusion.

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