

**WHATCOM COUNTY**  
Planning & Development Services  
Fire Marshal's Office  
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## **WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE NEWS RELEASE**

### **Dry conditions will again call for outdoor burn restrictions.**

Whatcom County – Due to the continued warm weather conditions and increase in wildland fire incidents, the Whatcom County Fire Marshal's Office has again enacted restrictions on open burning in unincorporated Whatcom County effective immediately. The recent rain did not have much impact on grasses and other light fuels as hoped, so warm weather and winds easily dry those materials and make them vulnerable to fire spread.

All land clearing and yard debris burning must be discontinued at this time. If you have a current burn permit, it is suspended until the ban is lifted. Contact the Fire Marshal's Office for specific details.

Recreational fires will still be allowed in designated campgrounds and on improved properties with the landowner's permission. Recreational fires are fires that are less than 3 feet in diameter, burning only seasoned firewood or charcoal, and are built in an approved fire enclosure. To find out the requirements for an approved enclosure please call the **burn ban information line at (360) 778-5903**. These restrictions do not apply to State owned lands.

Violations of these burn restrictions can result in a minimum \$250.00 fine. In addition if you have an illegal fire that escapes or needs to be extinguished by the fire department, you may be held financially responsible for fire suppression costs, as well as potentially being held criminally responsible.

If you have any questions on open burning in unincorporated Whatcom County, please contact the Whatcom County Fire Marshal's Office at 360-778-5900 or visit our website at: <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/381/Fire-Marshal>.

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Contact: Mitch Nolze, Fire Inspector