



Sept. 15, 2023

## **Local counties continue but change fire safety burn bans**

Fire officials in rural Island, Skagit, and Whatcom counties are continuing fire safety burn bans because of continued high fire danger and hot, dry conditions.

During periods of elevated fire dangers and dry conditions, county fire officials can call for bans on different types of burning in unincorporated areas.

- On Sept. 1, Skagit County modified its burn ban to allow recreational fires in rural areas. Land clearing fires and outdoor burning are still banned in Skagit County.
- On Sept. 15, Whatcom County also modified its ban to allow recreational fires.

NOTE: Recreational fires are still banned on lands managed by the Washington Department of Natural Resources in Skagit, Whatcom, and Island counties. And keep in mind that local cities also may have recreation fire bans in place; check with your local city fire department.

The [Northwest Clean Air Agency](#) does not issue fire safety burn bans. The agency can call air quality burn bans depending on the amount of smoke pollution in the air, such as when winds carry wildfire smoke into NWCAA's jurisdiction (Island, Skagit, and Whatcom counties).

For the latest details on the local fire safety burn bans:

- Island County (effective 8/18):  
<https://www.islandcountywa.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=36>
- Skagit County (effective 8/17, modified 9/1):  
<https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/Home/press/090123.htm>
- Whatcom County (effective 8/16, modified 9/15):  
<https://www.whatcomcounty.us/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=4006>

**Air quality information**

- Local air quality information: [Northwest Clean Air Agency](#).
- Statewide air quality monitoring: [Washington Department of Ecology](#).

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**The Northwest Clean Air Agency** is responsible for enforcing federal, state, and local air quality regulations in Island, Skagit, and Whatcom counties. In addition to permitting and regulating industrial sources of air pollution, the agency provides services and information related to asbestos, indoor air quality, outdoor burning, woodstoves, and fireplaces. More information about the agency is available at <https://nwcleanairwa.gov/>.