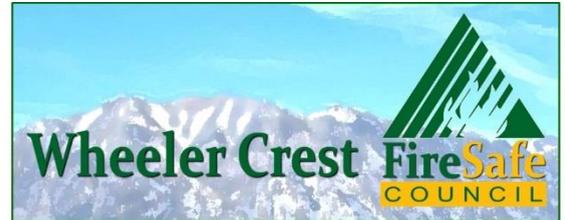


Fact Sheet #4

Outdoor Burning



Disposal of residential landscape debris is an ongoing and often challenging task in our community. While frequently hauled to the local landfill, yard waste can instead be burned during certain times of the year, and offers a management alternative that may appeal to some homeowners, especially those with larger lots. Fire safety is obviously of paramount concern, and such residential burning is strictly regulated. Dry, natural vegetation grown on the property may be burned outdoors in open piles, but *no household trash or garbage can be burned outdoors at any time*. This fact sheet outlines the procedures required by CalFire for the safe burning of landscape and yard debris, such as branches, leaves and other dead vegetation.



Obtaining Permission to Burn

The first step is to obtain an annual burn permit, which is best done in person. Stop by the Round Valley CalFire station (2784 S. Round Valley Road), and request an LE-62A burn permit. Staff will help you to fill out the form, and you should have a signed and valid permit when you leave. [NOTE: Staffing of the CalFire office can be very hit-or-miss, even during the winter months. It is best to call ahead (760-387-2179) to set up an appointment, or you can arrange to receive your permit by mail.] The permit will be valid until December 31 of the year issued.

Second, you need to check the CalFire Burn Permit website (www.fire.ca.gov/fire_protection/fire_protection_burnpermits) to see if the seasonal burning restrictions have been lifted. In a typical year, permission to burn yard waste is suspended in late May or early June, and is restored around Thanksgiving. The current status for Mono County can be found under the San Bernardino Unit.

The day of (or after 4:00 p.m. the day before) your planned burn, call the Owens Valley Interagency Communications Center (OVICC) at 760-873-2555 (option 1) to verify that it is a "Permissive Burn Day". If it is a "no-burn" day, your burning activity must be delayed accordingly.

The day of (or after 4:00 p.m. the day before) your planned burn, you should call all of the following and notify them of your plans:

Great Basin Air Pollution Control District	760-872-8211 (leave message as needed)
OVICC	760-873-2555 (option 1, leave message)
Mono County Dispatch	760-932-7549 (ext. 7)
Chief Dale Schmidt	760-920-9523 (leave message as needed)

It is also recommended that you contact the owners of adjacent and nearby properties so that they are aware of your plans.

Required Burning Procedures

- No burning shall be undertaken under windy conditions, irrespective of the GBUAPCD burn status for the day.
- All flammable material and vegetation must be cleared from a 10-foot swath around the burn pile.
- Maximum pile size for burning is 4 feet in diameter by 4 feet high.
- Burning must be carried out between 6:00 a.m. and noon. Fires must be completely extinguished and smoke-free by 12:00 p.m.
- A water source must be available close to the burn pile: a charged garden hose, or a backpack sprayer (5-gallon minimum).
- An adult must be in attendance at all times, and should carry both a shovel and a cell phone.

Other Types of Outdoor Fires

Barbeques (gas or charcoal) and outdoor “comfort” fires (e.g., fire pits) are not regulated in the same way as is debris burning. A burn permit is not required, nor are these types of fires subject to any seasonal restrictions. But, good judgement is *essential* with any outdoor burning activity, and should not be undertaken during dry and/or windy conditions. Best practices with such fire sources include locating the unit on an inflammable surface such as concrete or gravel, and having a readily available water source such as a charged garden hose. Like any outdoor fire, these should not be left unattended, and need to be carefully extinguished when no longer in use.



Additional Sources of Information

http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/downloads/fact_sheets/DebrisBurning.pdf

<http://www.readyforwildfire.org/Debris-Burning/>