



Snohomish County
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ONLINE INFORMATION
www.snohomishcountywa.gov/1190



This Assistance Bulletin only applies to property within unincorporated Snohomish County and does not apply to property within incorporated city limits.

Burn Permit Ordinance

Assistance Bulletin

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Keyword: Assistance Bulletins

The Snohomish County Code (SCC) adopts and amends the 2015 International Fire Code (IFC) in SCC 30.53A.010. Open burning is regulated in SCC 30.53A.504 (IFC 307.1.1) as noted below:

30.53A.504 Open burning amended (IFC 307.1.1)

Section 307.1.1 of the IFC is amended to read:

(1) Open burning shall be prohibited when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fire hazardous.

Exception: Prescribed burning for the purpose of reducing the impact of wildland fire when authorized by the fire marshal.

(2) Open fires are prohibited at all county operated landfill sites, and all county personnel are directed to take necessary steps to prevent and extinguish such fires.

(3) Where open burning permits have been issued by the fire marshal, open burning shall be suspended when a burn ban by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) is issued and shall not be resumed until the burn ban is lifted.

Land clearing burning is prohibited in Snohomish County.

Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) implements the Washington Clean Air Act. The PSCAA issued a Rule effective July 1, 2008, for King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties, prohibiting land clearing burning in Regulation 1, Section 8.13 (see [Puget Sound Clean Air](#) for more information). Unless this Rule is lifted, prohibited and allowed burning includes the following:

Prohibited burning:

- Garbage, construction debris or refuse, and demolition debris
- Use of a burn barrel
- Any outdoor fire that creates a health problem or nuisance for neighbors
- Land clearing
- Residential yard waste inside incorporated cities and UGAs

Allowed burning:

- Residential yard debris outside UGAs – only with open burning permits
- Cooking and recreational (without permit: max. 3 ft. diameter and 2 ft. high)
- Silviculture (with DNR permit)
- Agriculture (with PSCAA permit)

The definitions for open burning, residential open burning, and land clearing open burning are provided in SCC 30.53A.502.

This bulletin is intended only as an information guide. The information may not be complete and is subject to change. For complete legal information, refer to Snohomish County Code.

What is open burning?

SCC 30.53A.502 provides open burning definitions as follows:

- “OPEN BURNING” means the burning of natural vegetation in an outdoor location and categorized as either residential or land clearing for purposes of permit issuance.
- “OPEN BURNING – RESIDENTIAL” means the outdoor burning of leaves, clippings, prunings and other yard and gardening refuse originating on lands immediately adjacent and in close proximity to a human dwelling and burned on such lands by the property owner or his/her designee.

No household garbage, or construction/demolition debris is allowed to be burned.

Fire District coordination details

The County’s burn permit program applies to all of unincorporated Snohomish County. If someone wishes to obtain a burn permit from the County, one will be issued, provided they are not located within a designated no-burn area or if they live within the boundaries of a district that does not issue permits.

Those districts that wished to issue burn permits within their district jurisdiction have entered into an interlocal agreement with the County, and administer the County’s burn permits through that agreement. In essence, if fire districts entered into an interlocal agreement with the County, they will issue permits on behalf of the County within the boundaries set by their fire protection board. The following fire districts have entered into an interlocal agreement with Snohomish County as of July 2008:

South Snohomish County Fire and Rescue*	
North County Fire/ EMS	
Fire District 4	Fire District 22
Fire District 7	Fire District 25
Fire District 8	Fire District 26
Fire District 12	Fire District 27
Fire District 15	

*No burn permits issued pursuant to the local Fire District. Only recreational fires allowed.

**In Fire District 5, Snohomish County only issues burn permits for residential properties located outside of the UGA and city limits.

Applying for an open burn permit:

When permitted, residential burn permit applications may be submitted via My Building Permit at www.mybuildingpermit.com.

Fees

SCC 30.86.430 sets fees for residential and land clearing burn permits as follows:

\$30.90 – Residential
\$15.45 – Residential Annual Renewal

Enforcement

The fire districts are the first responders. If it is determined by first responders there is an illegal burn, the County will investigate.