

Columbia County Fire Defense Board

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PRESS RELEASE

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Date: July 5, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BURN BAN BEGINS July 11, 2022

The fire districts of Columbia County including Clatskanie Fire District, Columbia River Fire & Rescue, Mist-Birkenfeld Fire District, Oregon Department of Forestry, Scappoose Fire District and Vernonia Fire District are entering an open debris burn ban, beginning July 11, 2022 at 1:00am.

This affects private, county, state, and local government lands within the fire districts of Columbia County's boundaries. It is anticipated that summer weather patterns will dry wildland fuels and increase the risk for fire spread, these weather patterns also bring the risk of lightning and increase fire activity in the area. **The burn ban is intended to reduce human fire starts by restricting some activities related to forest operations and open burning.**

Recreational fires will be allowed within the landscaped footprint of a residential yard so long as recreational fire regulations are followed. Recreational fires must be in designated fire pits:

- Can be no larger than 3 feet in diameter with flames not to exceed 2 feet in height and should be a minimum of 25 feet from any combustible material.
- Only clean, natural wood that is short enough to fit within the fire pit is allowed to be burned.
- Recreational fires must be attended at all times by a responsible, sober, non-impaired adult with suitable on-site fire extinguishing equipment such as a working garden hose.
- Burning of garbage, yard debris, construction material including processed wood is not considered recreational burning.
- Backyard barbecues including charcoal and propane power units are allowed.

Open burning of yard debris will be prohibited as of July 11, 2022 and until further notice, at which time we will share another announcement. Open burning within the city limits of the fire districts are regulated by those local government entities. We are encouraging the public to avoid recreational fires on dry, windy days when fires are more likely to escape. Fine fuels such as green grass can easily ignite when the humidity is low and winds are strong. When drier weather conditions result in a more significant fire hazard, recreational burning may be more tightly regulated or banned completely.

Escaped fires of any kind resulting in property damage may result in fines and individual financial responsibility. Commercial burning such as slash burns regulated by the Oregon Department of Forestry will be closed.

For more information regarding campfires, recreational burning and debris burning please visit our websites at:

Clatskanie Fire: <https://www.clatskaniefire.org/>

Columbia River Fire & Rescue: www.crrf.com

Mist Birkenfeld Fire: <https://www.mistbirkenfeldrfd.org/>

Oregon Department of Forestry: <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/aboutodf/pages/mapoffices.aspx>

Scappoose Fire District: <https://www.srfd.us/>

