

OKANOGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION 73 – 2021

DECLARATION OF HAZARDOUS FIRE CONDITIONS AND ESTABLISHING A BURN BAN

WHEREAS, dry summer weather conditions provide for high fire conditions in Okanogan County and the potential for large and catastrophic fires exists that may be a threat to life and cause damage or destruction to homes, businesses, orchards/farmlands and natural resources.

WHEREAS, upon consultation with rural Fire Chiefs, Fire Districts and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the group determined that hazardous fire conditions exist throughout the county; and

WHEREAS, the Tri-County Pest Control Agent has advised that fire blight is an ongoing issue throughout orchards in Okanogan County and the best method for preventing the spread of Fire Blight is to burn the infected trees; and,

WHEREAS, property owners/orchardists who need to burn fire blight trees shall contact the Tri-County Pest Control Office at (509-667-6827) to obtain an Okanogan County Agricultural Burn Permit before burning fire blighted debris; and

WHEREAS, the Tri-County Pest Control Agent may issue an Okanogan County Agricultural burn permit after a site inspection and after obtaining a signature from the property owner/orchardist on said permit, accepting full responsibility for compliance with all conditions of the permit, and

WHEREAS, before burning, property owners, having been issued an Okanogan County Agricultural Burn Permit, shall call the Okanogan County Sheriff Dispatch Center at 509-422-7232 (option #4), and must have on-site a sufficient water supply and fire tools to man the burn at all times until the fire is fully extinguished; and

WHEREAS, a Recreational Fire Exemption Permit can be obtained through the local fire district to promote tourism, economic, well-being, and enjoyment of the community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Okanogan County Commissioners' hereby approves the use of the Okanogan County Agricultural Burn Permit and the Recreational Fire Exemption Permit here attached.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Okanogan County Commissioners' as follows:

Section #1: It is hereby declared that hazardous fire conditions exist in Okanogan County and that actions involving various county and other local agencies must be taken to help alleviate threats and damages.

Section #2: With this resolution a County wide burn ban has been established and upon signing becomes effective immediately on the burning of all combustible materials which may include, but are not limited to, outdoor burning of yard vegetation or waste, non-emergent agricultural burning, exploding gun targets, and bullet tracer rounds. This burn ban will remain enforced until official notice is made by the County Commissioner's rescinding this burn ban.

Section #3: This burn ban is county-wide affecting all private and county properties in un-incorporated areas of the county, including DNR-assessed properties. The County does not have jurisdiction within cities. Cities authorize their own burn ban.

Section #4: The board authorizes an Emergency Burn Exemption on the burning of Fire Blight infected fruit trees when the Okanogan County Agricultural burn permit is obtained and all permit conditions are complied with. The Tri-County Pest Control Agent is hereby authorized to proceed with issuing agricultural burn permits and shall provide a copy of the permit to the local fire districts and Sheriff's Dispatch.

Section #5: A Recreational Fire Exemption Permit may be obtained through the local fire district that serves the property the recreational fire is located on. The permit must be in writing, signed by both the fire district official and permittee, and a copy maintained at the local fire district.

Definitions:

Recreational fires:

An outdoor fire where the burning of materials is other than rubbish and where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, barbecue grill and is contained within 3 feet or less diameter concrete or steel ring, no less than 8 inches in height and has a total fuel area of 3 feet or less in diameter and fire is 2 feet or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.

Open Burning:

The burning of materials wherein the products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber is called open burning. Open burning does not include road flares, smudge pots and similar devices associated with safety or occupational uses typically considered open flames or recreational fires. For the purpose of this definition, a chamber shall be regarded as enclosed when, during the time combustion occurs, only apertures, ducts, stacks, flues or chimneys necessary to provide combustion air and permit the escape of exhaust gas are open.

This resolution does not apply to silvicultural burning on lands regulated solely by DNR's outdoor burning rules and regulations, fire in DNR recreation sites and campgrounds, or on U.S. Forest Service protected lands or within the Colville Reservation. However, the DNR, U.S. Forest Service and Colville Tribes may have similar burn bans in effect and citizens of the county are strongly encouraged to contact the DNR's burn information number at 1-800-323-BURN (2876), the U.S. Forest Service Tonasket Ranger District at 509-486-2186, and Methow Valley Ranger District at 509-996-4003, or Colville Confederated Tribes at 509-634-3100 for information on current outdoor burning restrictions of each agency.


Dated at Okanogan, Washington this 21 day of June 2021.




ATTEST


Laleña Johns, CMC
Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OKANOGAN, WASHINGTON


Chris Branch, Chairman


Jim DeTro, Member


Andy Hover, Member



Okanogan County Agricultural Burn Permit # _____

Issue Date: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Issued By: _____

Phone # _____

This permit is only valid for burning debris for pest and disease control from Commercial orchard pruning's during the County Burn Ban.

NAME: _____ PHONE #: _____ ALT. PHONE #: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

BURN SITE ADDRESS: _____

LIST MATERIALS TO BURN: _____

(*ONLY BURN CLEAN, DRY VEGETATION and no liquid petroleum products for ignition)

REASON FOR BURNING: _____

REQUIREMENTS: (Initial each requirement below)

1. Maximum pile size: _____ Initials: _____
2. Width of fire break, constructed before burning: _____ Initials: _____
3. NO Burning if RED FLAG Warning or winds exceed: _____ mph _____ Initials: _____
4. Minimum number of people attending the fire: _____ Initials: _____
5. Water Requirements: _____ charged hose/ _____ gallons _____ Initials: _____
6. A person capable of extinguishing the fire must be present at **ALL** times, and the fire must be fully extinguished before leaving the burn site. Burning during daylight hours only. Initials: _____
7. Permittee **SHALL** call Okanogan County Sheriff's Dispatch (509)422-7232 Option #4 **BEFORE** Burning
Permittee Initials: _____

I have read and understand the rules for burning and specific conditions listed. I accept full responsibility to comply with all conditions of this permit and WAC 173-425, 173-460, Federal, State, and Local fire safety rules. I understand this permit does not release me from liability for damages resulting from the spread of fire or smoke impacts. Violations of laws, rules and/or permit conditions may result in enforcement actions by Okanogan Co Fire Departments, Sheriff's Office, and/or Ecology.

Print Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Permittee must be 18 years of age or older

****PERMIT SHALL BE KEPT AT THE FIRE SITE WHILE BURNING****

Name: _____
Location: _____
Primary Phone # _____
Alt. Phone # _____
Email _____
Permit # _____

RECREATIONAL FIRE EXEMPTION PERMIT

This exemption is **ONLY** valid for use during the 20__ Burn Ban.

A recreational fire exemption permit may be issued by an Okanogan County Fire Chief in his jurisdiction during the Okanogan County Burn Ban providing:

Conditions: Recreational fires shall not be within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material (this includes but not limited to dead grass, dead weeds, and dead limbs), or that could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material. These shall be eliminated prior to approval and must be maintained throughout the exemption.

Attendance: Recreational fires shall be constantly attended until the fire is completely extinguished. The attendant shall have some form of fire-extinguishing equipment such as a shovel and dirt, sand, class A fire extinguisher, water barrel, garden hose, or water truck sufficient to extinguish the fire and available for immediate use.

Criteria: An outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, barbecue grill and is contained within a 3 foot or less in diameter concrete or steel ring no less than 8 inches in height and has a total fuel area of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height.

Temporary Stop During exemption: The following situations will immediately stop the use of recreational fires during the burn ban:

- A red flag warning has been issued for the area of the recreational fires. It is the responsibility of the land owner to keep informed of red flag conditions.
- Winds in excess of 10 mph.

If any of these conditions exist, no recreational fires are allowed and any that are currently in use shall be extinguished immediately.

Any other situations causing the use of recreational fires to stop, the land owner will be notified and expected to extinguish all fires **immediately**, by the District Fire Chief or Law Enforcement. For these types of situations, the land owner will be notified when recreational fires can resume.

This permit authorizes _____ to have a recreational fire during the 20__
Okanogan County Burn Ban on the property located at _____, within Okanogan
County.

Okanogan County Fire District ____ has inspected and approved their recreational fire pit/pits to be used
in a safe manor.

A copy has been provided of the current resolution by the Okanogan County Commissioners enacting the
burn ban along with this permit and MUST be present at the location and able to be provided to authorities
upon request, and a copy maintained at the local fire department.

Okanogan County Fire District ____ reserves the right to cancel/remove this exemption at any time should
burning practices become unsafe or problematic.

This Exemption does not apply on lands assessed and regulated by DNR, or under the control of the USFS
and the Colville Reservation.

The permittee agrees to bear all expenses of fire suppression and damages to neighboring properties if it
escapes by any cause and to pay the fire district and other approved fire extinguishing agencies, for all
reasonable expenses incurred in such suppression.

Permittee Signature

Date

Fire Chief or Designee

Date

Emergency 911

Non-Emergency Sheriff / Fire Dispatch 509-422-7232 Option #4