

OKANOGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION 73 – 2024

Burn Restriction to reduce wildfire potential.

WHEREAS, dry summer weather conditions provide for high fire conditions in Okanogan County generally starting the middle of June and ending the middle of October, 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; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Advisory Committee consisting of BOCC, DNR, Emergency Management, Fire Chiefs, Forest Service, and the Sheriff's Department have determined a need to reduce the likelihood of human caused wildfires; and

WHEREAS, a burn restriction prohibits all field/pile/rubbish/rule/slash/yard vegetation and non-emergent agricultural burning on private lands including DNR assessed lands within Okanogan County reducing the risk of wildfires; and

WHEREAS, recreational fires are **ALLOWED** during a burn restriction if used for pleasure, cooking, warmth, or similar purposes. These fires are less likely to become out of control (see definition); and

WHEREAS, Fireworks are Illegal in unincorporated areas of the county as per County Code 8.48

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, when high fire conditions exist a County Wide Burn Ban shall be implemented prohibiting **ALL** outdoor burning including recreational fires, the use of charcoal, exploding gun targets, and bullet tracer rounds; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Okanogan County Commissioners' as follows:

Section #1: An Okanogan County Burn Restriction will be in effect from June 15, 2024 at 12:01 AM and will continue through October 15, 2024 at 12:01 AM, unless otherwise determined by the Fire Advisory Committee.

Section #2: This burn restriction is County-wide affecting all private and county properties in un-incorporated areas of the County, including DNR assessed properties.

Section #3: Authorizes an emergency burn exemption on the burning of Fire Blight infected trees when a special 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 to the local fire districts and Sheriff's Dispatch.

Section #4: When high fire conditions become present the BOCC authorizes the Okanogan County Emergency Management Director upon recommendation from the Fire Advisory Committee to implement or remove a County Wide Burn Ban prohibiting ALL outdoor burning.

Section #6: All current Okanogan County burn restrictions and burn bans will be listed on www.okanogancounty.org/government/emergency_management

Definitions:

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.

Recreational Fires:

An outdoor fire used for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth, or similar purposes where the burning materials are other than rubbish, where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, or barbecue grill. Fires used for debris disposal purposes are not considered recreational fires.

The fire must be contained in concrete, rock, or steel ring (made from non-combustible material) no larger than 3 feet in diameter and no less than 8 inches in height. The fire (flames) shall be no higher than 2 feet, and not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material. Recreational fires SHALL be attended at all times.

Propane fire pits are allowed during a county-wide burn ban and can be used for pleasure, warming, or similar purposes. Propane flames cannot be larger than 3 feet wide and 2 feet in height and not burned within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material. Propane fire pits shall be attended at all times.

Emergency Agricultural Permit Burning:

The Tri-County Pest Control Agent may issue an Okanogan County Agricultural burn permit after a site inspection and obtain a signature from the property owner/orchardist

on said permit, having them accept full responsibility to comply with all conditions of the permit.

Property owners/orchardists needing 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.

Property owners issued an Okanogan County Agricultural Burn Permit shall call the Okanogan County Sheriff Dispatch at 509-422-7232 option #4 before conducting any burning and have on-site, sufficient water supply and fire tools to man the burn at all times until fire is fully extinguished. The permit shall be onsite and available to authorities during the agricultural burn.

This resolution does not apply to areas within city limits, 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 and within the Colville Reservation. The DNR, U.S. Forest Service and Colville Tribes may have similar burn restrictions/bans in effect. Some private parcels may also have DNR restrictions if it includes a DNR Fire Tax Assessment. This can be found on County tax statements.

Citizens of the county are strongly encouraged to contact their city/town or the following agencies for information on current outdoor burn restrictions/bans of each agency.

DNR's burn information number at 1-800-323-BURN(2876),

U.S. Forest Service
Tonasket Ranger District at 509-486-2186,
Methow Valley Ranger District at 509-996-4003,

Colville Confederated Tribes at 509-634-3100

Dated at Okanogan, Washington this 28th day of May 2024.



ATTEST:

Laleña Johns, CMC
Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OKANOGAN, WASHINGTON

Jon Neal, Chairman

ABSENT

Andy Hover, Member

Chris Branch, Member