

OKANOGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION 114 – 2022

DECLARATION OF HAZARDOUS FIRE CONDITIONS

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, after the implementation of Resolution 79 - 2022 by the Board of County Commissioners issuing the Burn Restriction beginning June 15, 2022 thru October 15, 2022 prohibiting field/pile/rule/rubbish/slash/yard vegetation, and non-emergent agricultural burning while allowing campfires, to reduce the likelihood of human caused wildfires, and

WHEREAS, upon consultation with the Fire Advisory Committee, it is hereby declared that a hazardous situation exists.

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 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,

WHEREAS, 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,

WHEREAS, property owners having been 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.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the 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: A County wide burn ban has been established and becomes effective Friday August 12, 2022 at 0001 prohibiting **ALL** outdoor burning including recreational fires. Combustible materials may include, but are not limited to, outdoor burning of yard waste, non-emergent agricultural burning, exploding gun targets, and bullet tracer rounds. This burn ban will remain enforced until October 15, 2022 unless extended by the Board of County Commissioners.

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 so the burn ban does not affect residents within city limits.

Section #4: The board 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.

Definitions:

Recreational fires:

An outdoor fire where the burning 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 a 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 2 feet or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes is a recreational fire.

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.

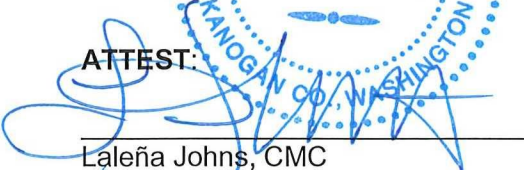
This resolution does not apply to silvicultural burning on lands regulated solely by DNR's outdoor burning rules and regulations, fire in DNR recreation sites and campgrounds, or on U.S. Forest Service protected lands and within the Colville Reservation. However, the DNR, U.S. Forest Service and Colville 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 9th day of August 2022.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OKANOGAN, WASHINGTON

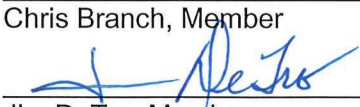


ATTEST:


Laleña Johns, CMC
Clerk of the Board


Andy Hover, Chairman

Chris Branch, Member


Jim DeTro, Member