

**BURNING INFORMATION FOR
LINN COUNTY AND LANDS
PROTECTED BY ODF**



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

**ODF-Sweet Home Unit
(541) 367-6108**

BEFORE YOU BURN CALL:

***THE LINN COUNTY BURN MESSAGE @
(541) 451-1904***

***Fire Departments within the Sweet Home ODF
Unit are:***

***Sweet Home FD (541) 367-5882
Lebanon FD (541) 451-1901
Brownsville FD (541) 466-5227
Harrisburg FD (541) 995-6412***

DIAL 911 for Fire Emergencies

Website: ODFSouthCascade.wordpress.com

Backyard Debris Burning

What is it? The burning of wood, needle or leaf materials from trees, shrubs, or plants in an outdoor fireplace, burn barrel, or piles of yard debris that is not in support of an agricultural operation. Campfires or recreational fires are not subject to these rules.

The Oregon Department of Forestry does not require written burn permits for backyard debris burning outside of fire season within their Forest Protection Boundaries. **Written permits are required from ODF for all burning during declared "Fire Season" and for burning of timber harvesting slash any time of the year.**

What is Fire Season? It is that time of year declared by the State Forester when sufficient fire hazard exists to require regulation of various human activities to reduce the risk of losses due to wildfire.

Backyard debris burning in Linn County is regulated year round for air quality purposes by rules administered by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

DEQ can be reached toll free at 1-800-452-4011 or at the local Salem office 503-378-8240.

When can I burn in Linn County? Typically in the spring from March 1st through June 15th and again in the fall from October 1st to December 15. **These burn seasons are not guaranteed and may be postponed or shortened by the Linn County Fire Defense Board due to fire danger.** To assure you are able to burn call the Linn County burn message number listed on the front page or your local fire department.

Commercial Agriculture Burning

What is it? Agricultural waste is material generated by an operation that uses, or intends to use, land primarily for the purpose of obtaining a profit by the raising, harvesting, and selling of crops or animals or other byproducts. Agricultural activities may include clearing of land, but **does not include burning debris for the construction of buildings.**

Agricultural Open Field Burning, the burning of residue left from the harvest of a grass seed or grain crop, is regulated in the Willamette Valley by the **Department of Agriculture** not DEQ. Open field burning occurs between June and October of each year. A permit is required from the **Department of Agriculture (ODA)** for open field burning. For information and permits call **(ODA) at 503-986-4701.**

Prohibited Materials

DEQ regulations prohibit open burning of the following materials at anytime, anywhere in Oregon.

- Rubber products, including tires
- Asbestos products
- Animal remains
- Plastic
- Wet garbage
- Petroleum and petroleum-treated debris
- Asphalt or industrial
- Any material that creates dense smoke or noxious odors.
- Auto parts and wire insulation

If you witness these materials being burned, you may file a complaint with the **DEQ Complaint Hotline @ 1-888-997-7888.**

Slash Burning

What is it? Slash Burning involves the burning of debris from a logging operation on forest lands. ODF regulates burning on forest lands throughout the state under Oregon's Smoke Management Plan. Slash Burning must be registered with ODF at least seven days before the planned ignition. A Burning Permit is also required. Call the ODF Sweet Home Unit Office for additional information.

Recreational and Ceremonial Fires

What is it? These types of fires are defined as fires for cooking of food, on other than commercial premises, and for recreational, religious and or ceremonial purposes such as campfires, sweat lodges, or bonfires. **Only dry, aged wood** may be burned. It is prohibited to burn any other type of material or debris.

ODF Campfire Requirements

1. They shall be confined to fire rings or other fire proof structures that are no larger than 3 feet in diameter.
2. All flammable material or vegetation shall be cleared for a distance of five feet around and ten feet above any fire ring or structure.
3. The campfire needs to be supervised by a competent adult. No fire shall be left unattended and needs to be completely extinguished before the users leave.
4. A charged garden hose or a minimum of 5 gallons of water and a shovel must be present at all times.
5. No burning is allowed if winds are in excess of five mph.

ODF Regulated Closure

What is it? On lands protected by ODF, as summer progresses and forest fuels become more susceptible to fire risk, Regulated Closure will be declared by the state forester on forest lands protected by ODF. The following restrictions apply:

- Smoking is prohibited while traveling, except in vehicles on improved roads or in boats.
- Open fires are prohibited including, campfires, cooking, warming and charcoal fires.
- Power saw use is permitted all day during low fire danger, before 1pm and after 8pm during moderate fire danger, and before 10am and after 8pm during high fire danger.
- Use of motorized vehicles is prohibited except on improved roads.
- All motor vehicles must be equipped with one gallon of water or one operational 2.5 pound fire extinguisher, one axe and one shovel, except when traveling on state highways and county roads.
- Use of fireworks is prohibited.
- Cutting, grinding and welding of metal is permitted all day during low fire danger, before 1pm and after 8pm during moderate fire danger, and before 10am and after 8pm during high fire danger.
- Mowing of dried and cured grass with power driven equipment are permitted during low fire danger, before 1pm and after 8pm during moderate fire danger, and before 10am and after 8pm during high fire danger.
- Any electric fence controller in use shall be certified by the Department of Consumer & Business Services and be in compliance with manufacturer's instructions.
- Any other spark-emitting internal combustion engine not specifically mentioned when conducted in a cleared area and a charged garden hose or one 2 1/2 lb. or larger fire extinguisher is immediately available is permitted all day during low fire danger, before 1pm and after 8pm during moderate fire danger, and before 10am and after 8pm during high fire danger.

(In Extreme Fire Danger all time sensitive activities are PROHIBITED!)

A regulated use waiver may be issued to allow a recreational fire for a planned special family event. An inspection of the site and the ODF campfire requirements must be met to waive.

Is your fire really out?

To ensure that a backyard debris burn or campfire is really out, follow these steps:

- **Drown the fire with water**, turn over the ashes and stir with a shovel and drown it again. Repeat several times until it is dead out. It's dead out when you can hold the back of your hand directly over the burn area.
- **Check the burn area** regularly over the next several days. Even when a fire stops smoking and appears to be out, an onset of windy, warmer weather days or even weeks later may re-ignite it.

Burning Alternatives

- **Compost yard waste.** Composting is a great way to turn plant waste into a rich soil conditioner for lawns and gardens.
- **Take yard waste to a chipping business.** Some landfills provide chipping and composting service.
- **Check with ODF** on grant funded programs that will help with the removal of forest fuels and brush from around your home and structures.

Liability

DEQ open burning violations can result in penalties of up to \$10,000 per day of violation. ODF can impose fines for burning violations and pursue costs for suppression if your burn escapes control. Be Safe!