

Frequently Asked Questions about Open Burning in Eastern Lane County:

Q: **When is backyard burning typically allowed in Lane County?**

A: **November 1st through June 14th.** The burn seasons may be postponed or shortened due to fire danger.

Q: **How do I know if I can burn today?**

A: Call the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (**LRAPA.org**) backyard burning advisory line @ **541-726-3976**

Q: **Do I need a permit or waiver to burn?**

A: **LRAPA requires** a permit for: Bonfires, Demolition, Construction, Land Clearing, Commercial and Industrial fires. LRAPA does not require a permit to burn Yard Debris and/or Recreational or Ceremonial fires.

The Oregon Department of Forestry (**ODF**) requires:

- a) A **written burn permit for all open fires during closed fire season** (no permits are issued during a regulated use closure, except for agricultural open burning [not field burning]). Contact ODF at **(541-726-3588)** for more information.
- b) **A written waiver for any open burning during a regulated use closure.** (No waivers are issued for backyard burning.) Waivers are available for recreational and ceremonial fires, on a site specific basis. Contact the ODF **(541-726-3588)** to apply for a **FREE waiver**. The ODF does not require permits or waivers outside of closed fire season

Q: **What is closed fire season?**

A: That season of the year when a fire hazard exists as declared by the responsible agency official. **Declared fire season supersedes the open burning periods.** The burn season may be postponed or shortened due to fire danger.

Q: **What is a Regulated Use Closure?**

A: Under ORS 477.535 to 477.550, the State Forester can proclaim a “Regulated Use Closure” on all lands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry, Regulated use closures do not effect where people can go, but they do effect what people can do (specifically burning and activities known to cause fires),

Q: The conditions are perfect for burning today, **why won’t you let me burn?**

A: The local fire agencies have no control over this decision. The Department of Environmental Quality and Lane Regional Air Protection Agency make all decisions on when burning is allowed. Their decision is based primarily on smoke management conditions. Burn bans by ODF and local fire districts are based on fire danger.

Q: **I want to complain about smoke** coming from my neighbors burn pile. Who can I contact?

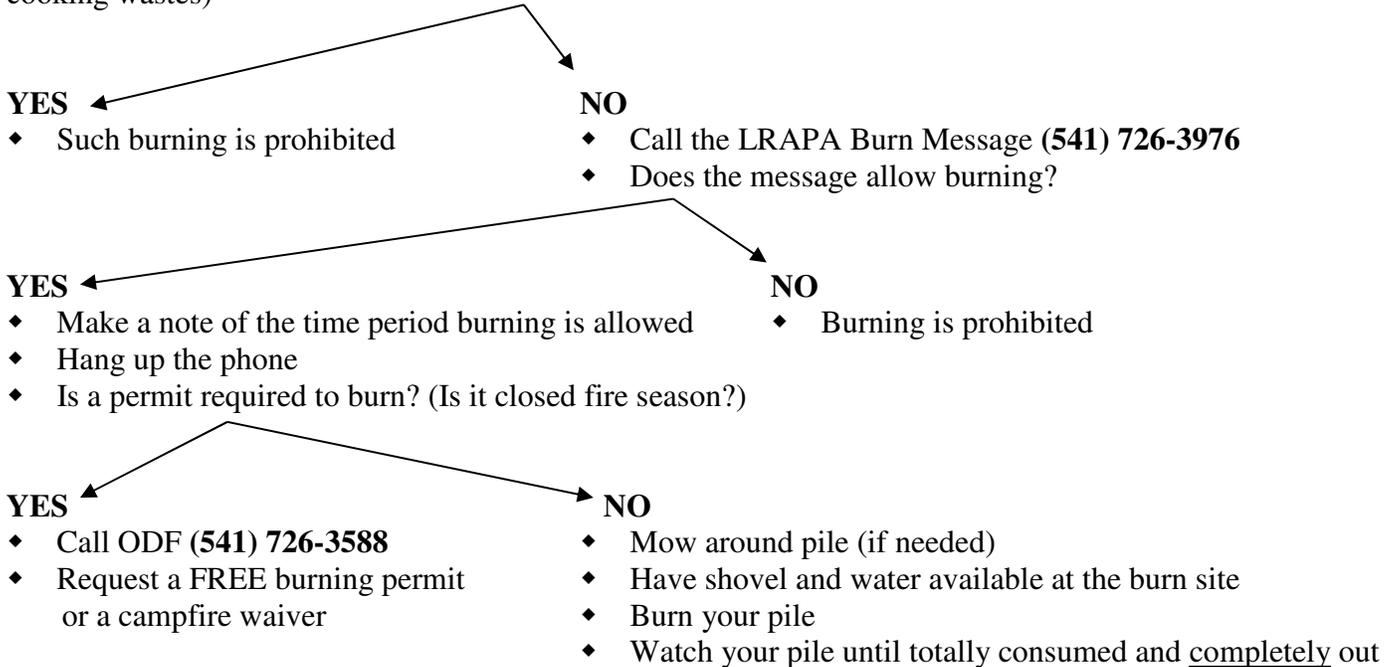
A: Please refrain from dialing 9-1-1 **unless** there is an emergency situation.

You may contact **LRAPA complaint line @ 541-726-1930** or your call your local fire district.

- **“Backyard Burning” =Yard Debris:** Materials from trees, shrubs or plants that grow on your landscaped yard (ex: grass clippings, tree leaves and needles, small branches, rose bush clippings). **Requires waiver from ODF during Regulated Use**
- **Domestic Waste:** Household waste generated in or around a house (ex: paper, cardboard, plastics, asbestos, auto parts, tires, clothing, furniture, etc.). **Prohibited**
- **Demolition Waste:** Material from a complete or partial destruction of any man-made structure or clearing any site for land improvement or clean up. **Requires permit from LRAPA**
- **Construction Waste:** Materials from a building or construction project (ex: lumber or crating and packing material). **Requires a permit from LRAPA.**
- **Slash Burning:** The burning of forest debris that originated from the management of forest land used for growing and harvesting timber. **Requires a permit from ODF.**
- **Agricultural Waste:** Material generated by an agricultural operation that currently uses, or intends to use, land primarily for the purpose of obtaining a profit by raising, harvesting and selling crops or raising and selling animals, or the products of animal husbandry. **Requires a permit from ODF during Regulated Use (except for field burning which is regulated by DEQ).**
- **Recreational or Ceremonial Burning:** Open fires for recreational, religious or ceremonial purposes such as campfires or bonfires. Campfires are only allowed in camping areas in existing metal campfire rings. **A written permit or waiver is required for any recreational/ceremonial burning on ODF protected forestland during fire season on privately owned land.**
 - Maximum size: 3 foot diameter by 2 foot high.
 - Acceptable materials: Dry, aged wood. It is **prohibited to burn** household waste, construction debris, treated lumber, leaves and/or materials which produce dense smoke when burned, including, but not limited to tires, carpet and roofing materials.
 - Required separations: No less than 50 feet from any structure and provisions will be made to prevent the fire from spreading.

Simplified Guide for Backyard Burning in Lane County

Do you want to burn any material that emits dense smoke or noxious odors? (Such as green vegetation, household garbage, plastics, auto parts, asphalt, petroleum products, rubber products, animal remains or cooking wastes)



A written permit or waiver is required prior to ANY recreational, backyard, barrel, non-field burning agricultural or slash burning, within the ODF fire protection district, during closed fire season

Safe Burning Practices and Requirements

1. Call the LRAPA Burn Message **(541-726-3976)** EVERY day you wish to burn.
2. A responsible, competent person, 18 years of age or older, and knowledgeable of these rules, must be in **direct view of the fire at all times**.
3. The location for open burning shall **not be less than 50 feet** from any structure and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 50 feet of the structure.
4. Fire extinguishing equipment should include a **charged garden hose or 5 gallons of water and a shovel**, which must be readily available on site.
5. **A 10 foot non-combustible barrier** is required. The ground around the material to be burned must be scraped to mineral soil to prevent fires from spreading.
6. **Avoid burning on dry or windy days** if at all possible. Do not burn if there is an air pollution advisory.
7. Fires should not be located near **tall grass or tree lines** or power lines.
8. Fires should be located on **level ground**.
9. Within the allowed hours for burning, when possible, **burn as early** in the morning or as late in the evening as is allowed. These tend to be the times of day when the humidity is the highest and the winds are the lowest.
10. Keep your **burn pile small** enough that you are easily able to control it at all times. 4' x 4' is recommended.
11. Never leave your fire until it is **DEAD OUT**.
12. Remember, any fire that you have ignited is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** and you are liable for any damage caused by that fire even if you have received a burn permit or waiver.