

WHATCOM COUNTY
Planning & Development Services
Fire Marshal's Office
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Mark Personius
Director/Fire Marshal

**WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE
NEWS RELEASE: Stage 2 Burn Ban**

Dry conditions and increased fire danger will call for further burn restrictions.

Whatcom County – Due to increasingly dry weather conditions, and the increase of Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) fire danger to HIGH, the Whatcom County Fire Marshal's office, has ordered a stage 2 burn ban placing restrictions on **all open burning**. Effective immediately, July 7, 2021, all open burning is prohibited in unincorporated Whatcom County until further notice. This ban is in conjunction with statewide outdoor burning restrictions enacted by DNR for all state-protected lands and the US Forest Service burn ban.

All outdoor burning is prohibited during this ban, including yard debris fires, land clearing fires, and recreational fires.

Propane fire pits without solid wood burning material will still be allowed, along with propane BBQs. The use of charcoal BBQ's or charcoal fire pits is not allowed. Wood burning fire pits or similar enclosures with grates or screens are NOT considered barbecues and therefore are not allowed.

If you live within a tribal or city boundary, contact the fire agency in your jurisdiction for specific restrictions in those areas. Also, contact any campgrounds you plan on visiting, as well as DNR, and the US Forest Service to learn about restrictions in those areas.

Violations of these burn restrictions can result in a minimum \$250.00 fine. In addition, if you have an illegal fire that escapes or needs to be extinguished by the fire department, you may be held financially and criminally responsible.

These outdoor burning restrictions may be reduced as weather and fire danger dictates.

If you have any questions on open burning in Whatcom County, please contact the Whatcom County Fire Marshal's Office at 360-778-5900 or listen to current burn ban information on the Whatcom County Burn Information Line at 360-778-5903.

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For Immediate Release
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