

Burning Permits

406.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish the outdoor burning guidelines and permit process for the District in accordance with the following:

- Chapter 52.12 Revised Code of Washington (RCW) Powers - Burning Permits.
- Chapter 70A.15 RCW Washington Clean Air Act, Sections 5000 et seq.
- Chapter 173-425 Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Outdoor Burning.
- Chapter 8.72 Jefferson County Code (JCC) Regulations for Outdoor Burning, Bonfires and Recreational Fires in Unincorporated Jefferson County

406.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Outdoor burning - means the combustion of material of any type in an open fire or in an outdoor container without providing for the control of combustion or the control of emissions from the combustion.

Land clearing burning - means the outdoor burning of trees, stumps, shrubbery, or other natural vegetation arising from land clearing projects (i.e., projects that clear the land surface so it can be developed, used for a different purpose, or left unused) with a total fuel area of twenty (20) feet or less in diameter and fifteen (15) feet or less in height. Land clearing burning requires a permit issued by Jefferson County Fire Protection District No. 2.

Residential yard waste burning - means the outdoor burning of leaves, clippings, prunings and other yard and gardening refuse originating on lands immediately adjacent and in close proximity to a human dwelling with a total fuel area of four (4) feet or less in diameter and three (3) feet or less in height and burned on such lands by the property owner or his or her designee. Only one (1) residential yard waste burn pile is allowed at any one time and does not require a permit.

Recreational fire - means an outdoor cooking fire, campfire, or bonfire using charcoal or seasoned firewood in designated areas on public or private property for cooking, pleasure, or ceremonial purposes with a total fuel area of three (3) feet or less in diameter and two (2) feet or less in height. Fires used for debris disposal are not considered recreational fires. Recreational fires do not require a permit.

Natural vegetation - means unprocessed plant material from herbs, shrubbery, and trees, including grass, weeds, leaves, clippings, prunings, brush, branches, roots, stumps, and trunk wood.

Construction/demolition debris - means all material resulting from the construction, renovation, or demolition of buildings, roads, and other man-made structures.

406.2 POLICY

It is the policy of Quilcene Fire Rescue to regulate open burning on lands within the District through the establishment of a permitting process as authorized by law.

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406.3 PERMIT REQUIRED

A Land Clearing Burning Permit issued by the District is required for any burning of natural vegetation having a total fuel area over four (feet) in diameter and three (3) feet in height. A permit does not constitute authority to violate, cancel, or set aside any of the provisions of the Fire Code or other applicable regulations.

406.3.1 PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Applications for burning permits shall be submitted to the Fire Chief or authorized District official. The application shall include authorization for District personnel to enter the property listed in the application, at reasonable times, for the purpose of inspecting the work that is the subject of the application and to ensure compliance with permit conditions, applicable laws, and regulations.

406.3.2 PERMIT FEES AND DURATION

Permit fees shall be collected at the time of application. The fees are established by the District governing body and are applicable to each permit application. Burning permits will be issued for 30 days and may be renewed for successive 30 day periods on payment of additional fees.

406.3.3 PERMIT ISSUANCE

An inspection shall be conducted prior to permit issuance. The burning permit may be issued upon request when the issuing District official deems it appropriate. The permit shall designate the premises and the exact location where the fire may be started and permitted, the nature of the material to be burned, the time limit of the permit, and may contain any special requirements and conditions pertaining to the fire and the control of the fire as the issuing District official deems appropriate (RCW 52.12.103).

406.3.4 PERMIT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The permittee shall comply with the terms and conditions of the permit, and shall maintain a responsible person in charge of the fire at all times who shall maintain the fire under control, not permit it to spread to other property or structures, and extinguish the fire when the authorized burning is completed or when directed by District personnel. The possession of a permit shall not relieve the permittee from liability for damages resulting from the fire for which the permittee may otherwise be liable (RCW 52.12.104).

406.4 PROHIBITED FIRES

The following materials may not be burned in any outdoor fire: Garbage, dead animals, asphalt, petroleum products, paints, rubber products, plastics, paper (other than what is necessary to start a fire), cardboard, treated wood, construction/demolition debris, metal, or any other substance (other than natural vegetation) that normally releases toxic emissions, dense smoke or obnoxious odors when burned (WAC 173-425-050).

No fire is allowed within any of the following distances:

- Within 100 feet from structures.

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- Within 500 feet from forest slash.
- Within 50 feet from standing trees.

406.4.1 BURN RESTRICTIONS (BURN BANS)

All or some outdoor burning may be suspended when burn restrictions are declared by local authorities or an air quality alert is issued by the Olympic Region Clean Air Agency (ORCAA).

- No land clearing burning or residential yard waste burning, is allowed on any day from July 1 through September 30 or when local authorities have declared a moderate (or higher) fire hazard (Chapter 8.72 JCC).
- No outdoor burning is permitted during a forecast, alert, warning or emergency condition as defined in RCW 70A.15.6010 (air pollution episodes) or impaired air quality condition as defined in RCW 70A.15.3580.

406.5 SUSPENDED OR REVOKED PERMITS

Permits may be suspended or revoked any time it is determined that:

- The permit is being used by someone other than the person who was issued the permit.
- The permit is being used at a location other than the permitted location.
- Any condition of the permit has been violated.
- The work being performed is out of compliance with applicable code requirements.
- The permit was obtained by the use of false statements on the application.
- The issuance of the permit was an error or in violation of a regulation, code or law.

406.6 ILLEGAL BURNING

If a person, firm, or corporation starts any fire without first securing the appropriate permit or if a permit holder fails to comply with any provision of law pertaining to burning permits, or of any term or condition of the permit, and as a result of that failure the District is required to respond with firefighting apparatus and/or suppress a fire, the person, firm, or corporation, or permit holder shall be liable to the District to reimburse it for the costs of the response and/or fire suppression services (RCW 52.12.104).

The District may levy a charge to recover the costs of providing fire suppression services (RCW 51.12.108).

The Fire Chief, authorized designee, or contracted billing agency will bill the responsible and/or liable party for the cost of services provided by the District in responding to illegal burning. Recoverable costs will be based on the current Washington Fire Chief's Association reimbursement schedule, comparable fire districts or municipal fire departments, or the discretion of the District governing body.