

Outdoor Burning in Island County

Island County Public Health issues Burn Permits to the residents of Island County. Residents should call: 360 387-3443 or 360-679-7350 for more information.

When a Burn Ban is not in effect, permits can be obtained Monday through Thursday (8:00am - 4:30pm) at the Public Health Department in Coupeville or Camano Island. Written permits for Land Clearing Burning and Residential Burning are **required** by State Law.

General Rules:

It is only legal to burn natural vegetation.

Burning in barrels is **prohibited statewide**.

Smoke, odor or ash that unreasonably impacts neighboring properties is illegal. Complaints for smoke nuisance are the responsibility of the county Health Dept, not the fire district. Neighborhood disputes are handled by the ICSO.

Materials resulting from a construction, renovation or demolition project **cannot be burned**.

Don't burn during periods of air stagnation or **when the winds exceed 7 mph**.

Verbal Permit:

A verbal permit will be issued only for Residential Burning smaller than 4 feet in diameter.

Please call Northwest Clean Air Agency at (360) 428-1617, extension 4, to obtain a verbal permit.

The following conditions need to be met.

- Fires must not exceed 4 feet in diameter.
- A shovel or rake must be on site.
- Water must be on site:
- Fires less than 4 feet must have a charged garden hose capable of reaching the fire or 10 gallons of water and a bucket.
- Fires 4 feet must have a charged garden hose or a 55-gallon water source with a pump and enough hose capable of reaching the fire.
- One person age 16 or older who is capable of putting the fire out must be in attendance at all times and must have a method to call 911 if needed.
- Only one pile may be burned at a time unless permitted otherwise.
- Do not burn during periods of air stagnation.
- All fires must be contained within a firebreak (bare ground).
- The firebreak must equal the size of the pile.
- The fire must be 50 feet from any structure, standing timber or power lines.
- The landowner's permission must be obtained if not on your property.

Recreational Burning: No Permit Needed

Recreational fires **3 feet in diameter or smaller do not need a permit** if all the conditions below are met (unless there are additional restrictions in your area).

Pile size must not exceed 10 feet in diameter. **If greater than 10 feet in diameter, then permit fees are \$40 for a 3-day permit.**

- Recreational fires consist only of charcoal or firewood and are used for cooking or pleasure.
- The fire is in an enclosure no larger than 3 feet across. The enclosure must be a minimum of 16 inches high and made of cement block, stones or #10 gauge steel.
- Materials being burned must be kept lower than the sidewalls of the enclosure.
- A charged garden hose or 2 five-gallon buckets of water must be on site.
- A shovel or rake must be on site.
- The fire must be 25 feet from any standing timber.
- Tree branches must be cleared to the height of 15 feet above the enclosure.
- One person age 16 or older who is capable of putting the fire out must be in attendance at all times.
- The fire must be contained within a firebreak (bare ground).
- The landowner's permission must be obtained if not on your property.

Land Clearing Permit:

- Land Clearing Burning Permit Fees: \$100 (1-day permit). Written permits are required for fires over 4 feet in diameter. Permits can be obtained Monday through Thursday (8:00am - 4:30pm) at the Public Health Department in Coupeville or Camano Island.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

The state DNR Issues all silvicultural fire permits. **Call 360.856.3500 to obtain a DNR silvicultural burn permit.** Silvicultural fires are fires **on forested lands** that will be replanted and remain forested. The following conditions need to be met for Land Clearing Burning.

- Pile size must not exceed 30 feet in diameter.
- A fan must be used to start the fire and assist in burning.
- A shovel and rake must be on site.
- A 350-gallon water source with a pump and enough 1 1/2" hose to reach the entire fire must be on site.
- One person age 16 or older who is capable of putting the fire out must be in attendance at all times and must have a method to call 911 if needed.
- The fire must be 50 feet away from any structure, standing timber or power lines.
- All fires must be contained within a firebreak (bare ground). The firebreak must equal the size of the pile.
- Only one pile may be burned at a time unless permitted otherwise.
- Do not burn during periods of air stagnation.
- The landowner's permission must be obtained if the fire is not on your property.
- An excavator with an operator must be on site at all times during the burn

Contact your local Fire Department **after** approval from Island County.

Other Burning:

Who Issues Other Burning Permits?

Northwest Clean Air Agency

Issues permits for all live training fires, agricultural, and “other types” of burning. Call 360.428.1617 to obtain a permit for the following types of outdoor burns.

- Agricultural burning
- Storm & flood debris
- Fire training
- Rare and endangered plant regeneration fires
- Ceremonial fires
- Weed abatement fire