



**Snohomish County**  
Planning and Development  
Services

Visit us at :

2nd Floor Robert J. Drewel Bldg.  
3000 Rockefeller Avenue  
Everett, WA 98201

425-388-3311  
1-800-562-4367, ext. 3311



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This Assistance Bulletin only applies to property within unincorporated Snohomish County and does not apply to property within incorporated city limits.

# Burn Permit Ordinance

Assistance Bulletin

# # 68

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The Snohomish County Code (SCC) adopts and amends the 2018 International Fire Code (IFC) in SCC 30.53A.010. Open burning is regulated in SCC 30.53A.298 noted below:

### **30.53A.298 Open burning**

A burn permit is required for the kindling or maintaining of an open fire or a fire on any public street, alley, road, or other public or private ground.

The following prohibitions and requirements apply to all outdoor burning:

- (1) Size of permitted burn pile for natural unprocessed vegetation. The size of a permitted burn pile comprised of dry yard and garden waste shall not exceed 4 x 4 x 3 feet.
- (2) Prohibited materials. 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 substance (other than natural vegetation) that normally releases toxic emissions, dense smoke, or obnoxious odors when burned.
- (3) Hauled material. No outdoor fire may contain material (other than firewood) that has been hauled from an area where outdoor burning of the material is prohibited under WAC 173-425-040. Any outdoor burning of material hauled from areas where outdoor burning of the material is allowed requires an appropriate permit under WAC 173-425-060(2).
- (4) Open fires at county landfill sites are prohibited.
- (5) Urban growth areas. Residential burning and land clearing burning may not be allowed in any urban growth areas.
- (6) Curtailments. No outdoor fire may be ignited in a geographical area where:
  - (a) Ecology has declared an air pollution episode;
  - (b) Ecology or a local air authority has declared impaired air quality; or
  - (c) A burn ban is in effect.
- (7) Unlawful outdoor burning. It is unlawful for any person to cause or allow outdoor burning that causes an emission of smoke or any other air contaminant that is detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of any person, that causes damage to property or business, or that causes a nuisance.
- (8) Recreational fires. When allowed recreational fires as defined in the IFC do not require a burn permit.

This bulletin is intended only as an information guide. The information may not be complete and is subject to change. For complete legal information, refer to Snohomish County Code.

## **Land clearing burning is prohibited in Snohomish County.**

Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) implements the Washington Clean Air Act. The PSCAA issued a Rule applies to King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties, prohibiting land clearing burning in Regulation 1, Article 1-8 (see [Puget Sound Clean Air](#) for more information). Unless this Rule is lifted, prohibited and allowed burning includes the following:

Prohibited burning:

- Garbage, construction debris or refuse, and demolition debris
- Use of a burn barrel
- Any outdoor fire that creates a health problem or nuisance for neighbors
- Land clearing
- Residential yard waste inside incorporated cities and UGAs

Allowed burning:

- Residential yard debris outside UGAs – only with open burning permits
- Cooking and recreational (without permit: max. 3 ft. diameter and 2 ft. high)
- Silviculture (with DNR permit)
- Agriculture (with PSCAA permit)

## **What is open burning?**

SCC 30.53A.502 provides open burning definitions as follows:

- “OPEN BURNING” means the burning of natural vegetation in an outdoor location and categorized as either residential or land clearing for purposes of permit issuance.
- “OPEN BURNING – RESIDENTIAL” 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 and burned on such lands by the property owner or his/her designee.

**No household garbage, or construction/demolition debris is allowed to be burned.**

## **County Coordination with Fire Districts**

The County’s burn permit program applies to all of unincorporated Snohomish County. If someone wishes to obtain a burn permit from the County, one will be issued, provided they are not located within a designated no-burn area or if they live within the boundaries of a district that does not issue permits.

Some fire districts issue burn permits on behalf of the County. They do this through an interlocal agreement with the County that allows them to issue burn permits within their district jurisdiction boundaries set by their fire protection board. They regulate burning and burn permits within their districts.

The following fire districts have entered into an interlocal agreement with Snohomish County:

- Marysville Fire District 12
- North County Regional Fire Authority
- Oso Fire Dept/Snohomish County Fire District 25
- Snohomish County Fire District 4
- Snohomish County Fire District 22
- Snohomish County Fire District 26
- Snohomish County Fire District 27 (Hat Island)
- Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue (merged Fire Districts 7 and 8)
- Tulalip Bay Fire Dept/Snohomish County Fire District 15

South Snohomish County Fire and Rescue—No burn permits issued pursuant to the local Fire District. Only recreational fires are allowed.

Sultan Fire District 5—In Fire District 5, Snohomish County only issues burn permits for residential properties located outside of the UGA and city limits.

### **Applying for a Snohomish County open burn permit:**

If you are not within one of the fire districts noted above, a county burn permit application should be submitted online at [MyBuildingPermit.com](http://MyBuildingPermit.com). For information on using our online permitting system, please see the following web page: <https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/3920/Online-Permitting>. If you need additional assistance with the online process, please call our office at 425-388-3311.

### **Fees**

SCC 30.86.430 sets fees for residential and land clearing burn permits as follows:

\$30.90 – Residential

\$15.45 – Residential Annual Renewal

### **Enforcement**

The fire districts are the first responders. If it is determined by first responders there is an illegal burn, the County will investigate.