

Open Burning Regulations for Lincoln County

A Source of Air Pollution

Pollution from outdoor burning can pose a threat to public health, the environment, and can be a public nuisance. Using fire to dispose of debris is a major source of complaints to fire departments and environmental agencies.

“Open Burning” is any open outdoor fire. This includes burn barrels, backyard incinerators, and any burning that is not vented through a stack or chimney. Other examples include burning piles of yard debris, stumps, construction debris or the remains of demolished structures.



Burning in burn barrels is polluting and inefficient.

Generate Efficient Burning

If you must burn, do so in a way that promotes efficient burning and prevents excess emissions of smoke. Follow these practices:

- Don't burn in burn barrels
- Burn only dry material (cover piles until ready to burn)
- Loosely stack or windrow material to promote adequate air supply to the pile
- Remove noncombustible material such as dirt and rocks from the pile
- Constantly attend and have the necessary tools to re-stack or feed the burn pile

PLEASE: When doing any burning, please be considerate of your neighbors and think about the impacts that the smoke may have on them.

What You Can't Burn Anywhere in Oregon

DEQ regulations prohibit open burning of the following materials anytime, anywhere in Oregon:

- Rubber products
- Tires (including to start a fire)
- Plastic
- Wet garbage and food waste
- Petroleum and petroleum-treated materials
- Asphalt
- Asbestos
- Animal remains
- Any material that produces dense smoke or noxious odors

Open burning of industrial and commercial waste in Lincoln County is prohibited. Industrial waste is material produced from an industrial or manufacturing process. Commercial waste is material generated from commercial operations (such as material from offices, warehouses, retail and wholesale outlets, restaurants, apartment complexes and other businesses).

Open Burning Control Areas

All areas in or within three miles of the incorporated city limits of any city with a population of 4,000 or more are in an Open Burning Control Area. Burning is more restrictive in these areas based on population density and potential impacts to residents. Currently, Open Burning Control Areas have been established in and extend three miles around the city limits of Newport and Lincoln City.

What You Can Burn Inside an Open Burning Control Area

Within these Open Burning Control Areas, only domestic waste may be burned on approved burn days. Domestic waste includes material generated in or around a house of four or less family units. Examples of domestic waste which may be burned are yard debris (material from trees, shrubs or plants that have grown on the property), paper and cardboard. Household garbage (plastic, food items, etc.) may not be burned. Once domestic waste is removed from the original property, it is classified as



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commercial waste and cannot be burned anywhere in Lincoln County.

What You Can Burn Outside an Open Burning Control Area

Outside Open Burning Control Areas, construction and demolition waste may be burned in addition to domestic waste. Construction waste is material used for a construction or building project, such as untreated lumber, paper and cardboard. Demolition waste is material resulting from demolishing a structure or from land clearing for site improvement or cleanup. Examples of demolition waste are whole trees, large stumps and wood remnants from razed structures (such as dry, untreated lumber and wood shingles). Materials from razed structures such as wire insulation, asphalt shingles and roofing tar paper cannot be burned at any time.

Before You Burn

Before you burn, contact your local fire department for burn day information. Open burning is usually allowed on days with favorable conditions.

Alternatives to Open Burning

- Compost or chip plant materials on-site
- Organize Community Cleanup Days
- Curb-side pick up
- Take materials to a recycling center or landfill
- Reclaim used lumber
- Utilize construction site recycling programs
- Donate unwanted clothing, furniture and toys to friends, relatives and charities.

Slash Burning

Slash burning (burning debris from logging) is limited to burning on forestlands for forest management, and is usually managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry. It is **not** the clearing of forestland for any other purpose.

Agricultural Burning

Open burning for agricultural purposes is usually allowed anywhere in the state, unless fire safety concerns restrict or prohibit burning on a given day.

Agricultural burning is limited to bona fide agricultural waste. Agricultural waste is material generated by an agricultural operation that uses, or intends to use, land *primarily* for the purpose of obtaining a profit in money by raising, harvesting and selling crops or raising and

selling animals (including poultry), or the products of animal husbandry.

Prohibited materials can't be burned, even in an agricultural setting. Agricultural burning must be an integral and necessary part of the agricultural activity. The agricultural activity might include clearing of land, but does not include the construction and use of dwellings. Burning associated with waste from a house is considered to be domestic burning, backyard burning, or burning of yard debris, even if it is on land used for farming. Burning down a barn that was once part of an agricultural operation is considered demolition open burning.

Agricultural field burning is the burning of residue left from the harvest of grass seed or cereal grain crops, and is regulated under a separate program operated by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

DEQ approval is not required for agricultural permits. Contact your local fire department to inquire if an agricultural burn permit is otherwise needed.

For more information contact your local fire department or DEQ's Western Region-Salem Office at (503) 378-5085 or toll free at 1-800-349-7677.

Lincoln County Fire Departments:

Central Oregon Coast F&R-	(541)563-3121
Depoe Bay RFPD-	(541)764-2202
Newport Fire Department-	(541)265-9461
N. Lincoln F&R District #1-	(541)996-2233
Seal Rock RFPD-	(541)563-3702
Siletz RFPD-	(541)444-2043
Toledo FD-	(541)336-3311
Yachats RFPD-	(541)547-3266



Don't burn prohibited materials.

