

Outdoor Burning

The CITY OF SPOKANE has an outdoor burning ban. Unauthorized **open burning** is prohibited within the City limits. Also banned is any burning of garbage, rubbish containing paper products, yard or construction waste, treated wood, and other prohibited material.

Open burning is defined in the Fire Code as the burning of a bonfire, rubbish fire or other fire in an outdoor location where fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, barbecue grill or barbecue pit.

Outdoor fires for “recreational” purposes such as cooking, religious, ceremonial, and recreation (i.e. campfires) which use charcoal, natural gas, propane, or firewood, are allowed in designated areas or on private property. Fires exceeding a total fuel area of 3’ in diameter or 2’ in height are not allowed without a special permit from the Fire Prevention Bureau.

Fires used for debris disposal purposes are not considered recreational fires.

People are allowed to *safely* enjoy outdoor cooking/recreational fires under the Washington WACs and Fire Code if these safety additional safety requirements are followed:

- Fire extinguishing equipment (garden hoses, buckets, shovels, or a portable fire extinguisher) shall be available and ready for use.
- The cooking fire must be supervised by a responsible adult, knowledgeable in the use of the fire extinguishing equipment, at all times until such fire has been extinguished.
- The size of the cooking/recreational fire is to be limited to a total fuel area of 3’ in diameter or 2’ in height or less.
- An adequate distance/clearance of 10’-15’ must be maintained between a contained recreational fire and combustibles (i.e. overhead structures, wood, paper, cardboard, buildings, sheds, yard waste debris, etc.).

An outdoor fire shall be extinguished if any of the following conditions exist:

- The fire is determined to be **open burning** as defined above.
- Significant wind conditions exist, contributing to potential fire spread.
- Smoke generated from the fire is causing an excessive nuisance to neighbors.
- There is inadequate clearance (<10-15') from combustible materials (i.e. wood, paper, cardboard, buildings, sheds, yard waste debris, etc.).
- Inadequate supervision by a responsible adult (constant attendance is required).
- Burning of prohibited material that normally releases toxic emissions, dense smoke or obnoxious odors when burned.
- Other prohibited materials are being burned (i.e. yard or construction waste, garbage, treated wood, plastics, rubber, etc.).
- Atmospheric conditions resulting in a no "green light" to burn according to SCAPCA
- **Contact the Spokane County Air Pollution Control Authority (SCAPCA) at (509) 477-4727 or the Spokane Fire Department at 625-7000.**

Fire Officers are authorized to require the immediate discontinuance and extinguishment of any fire that constitutes a hazardous condition.

Call the Fire Prevention Bureau at 625-7000 if you have any questions or comments regarding this matter. Thank you.