



# Whatcom County Fire District #5

2030 Benson Road

Point Roberts, WA. 98281

Phone: (360) 945-3473

Fax: (360) 945-2526

## Outdoor Burning Policy

ref. Resolution 2006-05

This Policy is based on Chapter 173-425 WAC and Section 502 of the regulations published by the Northwest Clean Air Agency which will become part of this policy. Modifications to the regulations are allowed if they are more restrictive.

### General:

1. Three types of outdoor fires will be allowed.
  - a. Recreational
  - b. Residential
  - c. Land Clearing
2. All outdoor fires will require a permit.
  - a. Burning permits may be issued upon request when the issuing officer 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 officer deems appropriate. RCW 52.12.103
3. A fee will be charged for the permit. RCW 70.94.780
4. All outdoor burning will be suspended when a burn ban is issued by the Fire Marshals Office or an air quality alert is issued by the Clean Air Agency. NWCAA 502.4 (E)
5. 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
6. "Air pollution" is presence in the outdoor atmosphere of one or more air contaminants in sufficient quantities and of such characteristics and duration as is, or is likely to be, injurious to human health, plant or animal life, or property, or which unreasonably interfere with enjoyment of life and property. RCW 70.94.030 (2)
7. The Fire District may levy a charge to recover the costs of providing fire suppression services. RCW 52.12.108.

## **Types of Fires: (summary)**

1. **Recreational** fires are defined as small campfire type fires. Campfire pits shall not exceed 4 feet in diameter and 3 feet in height. They may be constructed of any non-flammable material such as brick, stone or cement block. Commercially available fire enclosures are approved. The location of the fire must be 3 times the fire pit width from any flammable materials. i.e. structures, fences, natural vegetation etc. Fires must be clear of overhanging materials. Only firewood or charcoal may be burned. There shall be water and a hand tool available for extinguishing the fire. Fire must be attended at all times.

2. **Residential** fires are for the burning of leaves, clippings, pruning, and other yard and gardening refuse originating on the maintained area of residential property. The fire shall not exceed 4 feet in diameter and 3 feet in height. The location of the fire must be 3 times the fire pit width from any flammable materials. i.e. structures, fences, natural vegetation etc. Fires must be clear of overhanging materials. Fires shall be extinguished by sundown. There shall be water and a hand tool available for extinguishing the fire. Fire must be attended at all times.

3. **Land Clearing** fires are for the burning of trees, stumps, shrubbery or other natural vegetation from land clearing projects. No land clearing fire shall be larger than twenty-five (25) feet in diameter and be located less than fifty (50) feet from any structure, standing timber or power lines. Excavator or equivalent (depending on size of pile) type of equipment with an operator, a fan of 6000cfm, a source of water (minimum 300gal\*) and hose that will reach around the fire must be available at the site. Fire must be attended at all times. Site inspections are required. The issuing officer may use his/her discretion when determining if the burning can be done safely with consideration being given to the experience level of the permit applicant. More stringent requirements may be requested before a permit will be issued. \*For fires 15' x 15' a garden hose will fulfill the water requirement.

## **Permits and Fees:**

Permits for Recreational and Land Clearing fires are available at the Benson Road fire station. Recreational permits are valid for 12 months at a cost of US \$20.00. Land Clearing permits are valid for 24 hours at a cost of US \$50.00. Permits (3) may be issued for a maximum of 72 hours.

Permits for Residential fires are available at Nielson's Building Center, 291 Tyee Dr. The permit is valid for 72 hours at a cost of US \$3.00. More than one permit may be purchased at a time.

## **Cost Recovery Fee Schedule:**

1. Actual personnel costs.
2. Apparatus cost based on State Mobilization (2006) rate schedule.
  - a. Type 1 Engine - \$128.00 per hour or part thereof.
  - b. Aid Vehicle - \$56.00 per hour or part thereof.
  - c. Support Unit - \$50.00 per hour or part thereof.
  - d. Command Vehicle - \$50.00 daily rate.