

KITSAP COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION

Contact: Michele Laboda (North Kitsap Fire & Rescue) 360-297-3619x14, 360-265-6244
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KITSAP CHIEFS JOIN OTHER AGENCIES IN SUMMER OUTDOOR BURN BAN *Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as well as King, Pierce, Mason, Snohomish, Clallam and Jefferson Counties Ban Most Outdoor Fires until September 30*

(KITSAP COUNTY, Washington) – The Kitsap County Fire Chiefs' Association (KCFCA) announced today that its members will join with a host of other agencies to ban most outdoor fires effective Monday, July 19 at 12:01 a.m. and until at least September 30.

Under the ban, outdoor burning permits are temporarily suspended and no outdoor burning is allowed except for cooking fires in contained barbecue units and recreational fires. A "recreational" fire is defined as follows:

- Built in a designated fire pit space,
- No larger than three feet in diameter,
- Containing seasoned firewood or charcoal briquettes only,
- Located in a space well clear of vegetation, and at least 25 feet from buildings, fences, or anything that might burn,
- Attended at all times by an alert adult with immediate access to a shovel and a water source.

DNR plans to implement similar bans every summer from July 15 until September 30. Local fire officials, in an effort to provide the public with consistent and easy-to-follow rules, will follow suit. "Outdoor burning is the most common cause of dangerous wildland fires," says KCFCA President and North Kitsap Fire & Rescue Chief Dan Smith, "Historical data shows that we usually start seeing a sharp increase in local brush fires around mid-July as summer weather saps moisture from area vegetation." Citing the budget pressures being experienced by all levels of government, Smith – who also serves as South Puget Sound Region Fire Resource Coordinator – notes that the ban is a proactive measure to limit the need for expensive wildland responses statewide.

For more information on outdoor burning and local restrictions, contact your local fire agency:

- Bainbridge Island Fire Department at 206.842.7686,
- Bremerton Fire Department at 360.473.5380,
- Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue at 360.447.3555,
- Poulsbo Fire Department and North Kitsap Fire & Rescue at 360.297.4888,
- South Kitsap Fire & Rescue at 360.871.2425, or,
- County-wide at 1.800.323.BURN.

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