

WHATCOM COUNTY
Planning & Development Services
Fire Marshal's Office
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226-9097
360-778-5900
360-778-5901 Fax



Mark Personius, AICP
Director

Curtis Metz
Deputy Fire Marshal

WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Whatcom County, WA — September 10, 2024 — Due to the increase in fuel moisture levels and forecasted cooler temperatures and rainfall, the Fire Marshal's Office will lift the burn ban for outdoor burning. The burn ban will be lifted at **8:00 AM on Saturday, September 14th, 2024** for the unincorporated areas of Whatcom County. At that time, verbal burn permits will be available via the Outdoor Burning Information Line. Written burn permits for fires larger than 4' X 4' will be available at the Planning & Development Services Office located at 5280 Northwest Dr. All outdoor burning requires a permit, except for legal recreational fires.

If your property is located within WCFD 5 – Pt. Roberts, WCFD 11 – Lummi Island, or WCFD 17 – Sandy Point, you **MUST** contact those fire districts to find out if outdoor burning restrictions have been lifted for those areas.

If a property you want to have a fire on falls under the jurisdiction of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources or a federal forest or park jurisdiction, you must contact those organizations prior to lighting any fire.

For current outdoor burning information and verbal burn permits please call the Outdoor Burning Information Line at **(360) 778-5903**. Requirements for all types of outdoor burning are available on our website at: [Land-Clearing Commercial](#), [Residential](#), [Recreational-Campfire](#). You can apply online for a burn permit on our website - [Online Burn Permit](#). Once completed email the application to EPermits@co.whatcom.wa.us, a staff member will contact you to complete the process.

A permanent ban on open burning remains in effect for the cities and Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) of Bellingham, Lynden, Ferndale, Blaine, Everson, Nooksack, Sumas, Birch Bay, Columbia Valley, and Cherry Point. Check the link below to see your property is within a UGA - [UGA Map Whatcom County](#).

Please remember as the burn ban is lifted:

- **Please use extreme caution! Vegetation is still recovering from the long stretch of dry weather and is susceptible to fire spread.**
- Violations of these burn restrictions can result in a minimum \$250.00 fine. In addition, if you have an illegal fire that escapes or needs to be extinguished by the fire department, you may be held financially responsible for fire suppression costs and may be criminally charged for Reckless Burning.

If you have any questions about open burning in Whatcom County that were not answered by the Outdoor Burning Information Line, please contact the Whatcom County Fire Marshal's Office at **(360) 778-5900**.

Contact: Tiffany Honey, WCFMO
thoney@whatcomcounty.us
(360)778-5964
www.whatcomcounty.us/FireMarshal
Follow Us: [Facebook](#)