



MEDFORD BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

A Division of the Medford Fire Department
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Residential Debris Burning

Beginning March 1 and continuing until fire season is declared, residential burning of yard trimmings, leaves and brush is allowed outside the City limits of Medford in Fire District #2 by permit only. This burning is also allowed in the fall after fire season is declared over through October 31. Debris burning is prohibited within the City limits of Medford. Excellent alternatives to burning are to recycle your debris through your refuse company or by taking it to Biomass One.

If you have a permit and you choose to burn it must be declared a burn day. Call (541) 776-7007 to verify the ventilation index is above 400. Burning is only allowed during daylight hours and when the wind speed is 15 mph or less and temperature is not over 90°F.

It is illegal to burn any of the following items:

- Wet garbage
- Automobile parts
- Asphalt or industrial waste
- Petroleum products or petroleum treated materials
- Plastics
- Rubber products (Tires, wire insulation, etc.)
- Animal remains
- Any other material which normally emits dense smoke/noxious odors



Open burning violations can result in penalties of up to \$10,000 per day of violation.

It is unsafe and illegal by Oregon statues to initiate an open burn using petroleum products. In the last month two people in the Rogue Valley were severely burned when they tried to use gasoline to initiate a fire. Gasoline, kerosene or similar ignitable liquids quickly vaporize. The flammable vapors can surround you and any ignition source may cause a flash fire that could engulf you. Rather than using a petroleum product to start a debris burn, consider using kindling, paper, cardboard, or manufactured fire starters to ignite the pile.

The maximum permissible pile size is 4 feet in diameter by 3 feet tall, and must be a minimum distance of 50 feet from any structure. If the pile size is 3 feet or less in diameter and two feet or less in height, the minimum required distance from any structure shall be 25 feet. Burning can also be conducted in a burn-barrel.

In addition to the above requirements, the following safety measures shall be implemented:

- Clear the ground around the burn location, at least 10 feet in all directions
- Never burn under overhanging limbs or power lines
- Never leave a fire unattended-only a responsible person should attend the fire
- Keep children away from the burn area
- Keep a hose and shovel near the fire
- Don't delay calling 911 if the fire gets out of control
- Make sure your fire is out before you leave

For more information, call our department or visit our website at: <http://www.ci.medford.or.us/Page.asp?NavID=398>

Sources: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/safedebrisburning.shtml>
<http://www.deq.state.or.us/aq/factsheets/04-aq-005-openburneng.pdf>