



# Open Burning Rules for Marion County Fire District #1

Marion County Fire District Burn Information 503-588-6524

**Burning has been banned within the Salem Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). If you are unsure if your residence is within the UGB, call Public Works at 503-588-5038.**

## **Backyard Burning Ban in Salem/Keizer Urban Growth Boundary**

In an effort to reduce air pollution in areas of higher population contained within the Salem/Keizer Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), the Marion County Board of Commissioners has adopted a new ordinance which prohibits burning of yard debris within the UGB with a few exclusions and permitted exceptions.

The City of Salem adopted a similar ordinance in 1993, updated in 2006, that bans backyard burning within the city limits. The new county ordinance was adopted in December of 2008. You can learn more about the Marion County Backyard Burning Ordinance No. 1279 by calling 503-588-5038, or on the web at [www.co.marion.or.us/pw/es](http://www.co.marion.or.us/pw/es)

## **Illegal Burning Reporting**

Illegal burning in Marion County should be reported by calling 503-373-4333. Please do not call 911 to report neighbors conducting backyard burning. Marion County Fire District will not respond on burning complaints unless there is a significant danger of damage to life or property.

## **High-Risk Hostile/Threatening Fires**

Please do call 911 for any hostile fire that is not attended and may threaten lives or property. We will continue to respond to any fire reported as hostile and out of control, or threatening lives or property. We will respond to any fires during the typical summer "no-burning" season as well. If you encounter an out of control or high risk fire that is of serious concern, please call 911.

## **Enforcement Authority for Illegal Backyard Burning**

The fire districts do not have statutory authority to enforce regulations prohibiting backyard burning, with the exception of the summer "all burning ban" period that typically occurs.

Enforcement options may be pursued by calling: Marion County Code Enforcement at 503-373-4333.

Department of Environmental Quality at 503-378-5085.

Pollution from outside burning can pose a threat to public health and the environment and can be a public nuisance. Using fire to dispose of debris is a major source of complaints to the fire departments and environmental agencies.

"Open Burning" includes any burning conducted outdoors. A fire in a burn barrel is open burning, as is burning debris in an outdoor fireplace or a backyard incinerator. Other examples include burning piles of yard debris, stumps, construction debris or the remains of demolished structures.

## **It's against the law to conduct any open burning that:**

- Unreasonably interferes with the enjoyment of life or property
- Creates a public or private nuisance
- Is a hazard to public safety

## **DEQ regulations prohibit open burning any time, anywhere in Oregon of the following materials:**

- Rubber products
- Plastic
- Wet garbage and food waste
- Asphalt and asbestos
- Wire insulation
- Automobile parts
- Animal remains
- Any material that produces dense smoke or noxious odors

## **DEQ regulations prohibit open burning of commercial waste in the Willamette Valley.**

Examples of commercial waste are waste materials from:

- Offices
- Wholesale and retail yards and outlets
- Warehouses
- Restaurants
- Mobile home parks
- Domestic waste removed from the property of origin
- Waste from dwellings that contain four or more living units

**Burning is NOT allowed for the following items:**

Domestic Waste:

Household waste generated in or around a house such as:

- Paper
- Cardboard
- Clothing

Demolition Waste:

- Material from a complete or partial destruction of any man-made structure
- Clearing any site for land improvement or cleanup
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Construction Waste:

- Material from a building or a construction project, such as:
- Lumber and other building material
- Crating and packing material

**What can you burn?**

- Yard debris

**What is considered yard debris?**

Materials from trees, shrubs, plants that grow in your landscaped yard, for example:

- Grass clippings
- Tree leaves and needles
- Small branches
- Rose bush clippings

**When is open burning allowed?**

Open burning is allowed on approved burn days for residents OUTSIDE the Urban Growth Boundary. Call your fire district's burn line for information regarding burn days and times.

**Marion County is inside a special control area.**

Special control area burning is usually allowed March 1<sup>st</sup> through June 15<sup>th</sup>, and October 1<sup>st</sup> through December 15<sup>th</sup>. Local burning ordinances may be more restrictive than DEQ.

**What is Agricultural Waste?**

Agricultural waste is material generated by an agricultural operation that uses, or intends to use, land primarily for the purpose of obtaining a profit in money by raising, harvesting, and selling crops or raising and selling animals (including poultry), or the products of animal husbandry. Prohibited materials can't be burned, even if in an agricultural setting.

Agricultural activities may include clearing land, but does not include the construction and use of dwellings. The burning of materials associated with a dwelling is not considered part of the farming operation.

DEQ does not have the authority to regulate agricultural burning. Marion County Fire District does not require agricultural burning permits. Agricultural field burning is the burning of residue left from the harvest of grass seed or cereal grain crops, and is regulated in the Willamette Valley under a separate program operated by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

**What is Slash Burning?**

Slash Burning (burning debris from logging) is limited to burning on forestlands for forest management, and is usually managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry. It is not the clearing of forestland for any other purpose. Contact your local Department of Forestry Office for more information.

**What are other alternatives to Open Burning?**

- Donate unwanted clothing, furniture, and toys to friends, relatives or charities. Give unwanted magazines and books to hospitals or nursing homes.
- Separate the recyclable items from the other waste and prepare them for collection or drop-off at a local recycling station. Chip wood waste and use as mulch. Compost organic material and use as soil amendment.
- Arrange for your non-recyclable waste to be picked up or take it to a transfer station or landfill.

**Burning Information**

**Contact Numbers:**

**DEQ**

State or Oregon Department of Environmental Quality  
750 Front Street NE Ste. 120  
Phone: 503-378-5085

**Marion County Fire District #1**

300 Cordon Rd NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-588-6526

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