



Cowlitz County

County Administration Building
207 Fourth Avenue North
Kelso, WA 98626
www.co.cowlitz.wa.us

News Release

Seasonal Burn Ban

July 13, 2026

Effective Wednesday July 15TH all outdoor burning in Cowlitz County will be restricted until further notice. All land clearing, residential and silvicultural burning is restricted and all outdoor burn permits issued prior to the ban are rescinded. Burn permits can be reissued after the ban is lifted.

To have predictable and consistent burn bans, Cowlitz County implements a policy to ban outdoor burning from July 15 through Sept. 30 each year.

Designating this period was based on years of information about fuel conditions. However, under certain conditions, a ban can begin sooner or end later.

Recreational campfires are allowed if built in improved fire pits in designated campgrounds, such as those typically found in local, county, and state parks and in commercial campgrounds. On private land, recreational fires are permitted with the landowner's permission if built in the following approved manner:

- In a metal, stone or masonry lined fire pit such as those seen in approved campgrounds.
- Size may not exceed 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height.
- Fires must be at least 25 feet from a structure or other combustible material and overhead fuels such as tree limbs, patio covers or carports.
- Portable outdoor or patio fireplaces should not be used within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material. Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Fires must be attended at all times by a responsible person at least 16-years old with the ability and tools to extinguish the fire, such as a shovel and either five gallons of water or a connected and charged water hose.

Please remember - remain in attendance of fire for duration of recreational burning and completely extinguish upon conclusion.

For more information, please contact the Cowlitz County Fire Marshal's Office at (360) 577-3052 or visit the County's website at www.co.cowlitz.wa.us.

Contact

Mike Wilson,
Building Official
Fire Marshal's Office
Phone: (360) 577-3052 Ext. 6655
wilsonm@cowlitzwa.gov

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