



Hot Topics

News and Information for Rural
District residents

REMINDER: Open burning season ends on June 15th

CRFPD-CFD Contract Update Bob Conder, CRFPD Board Chairman

Gazette Times Article: "Rural fire protection up in the air", published Wednesday, April 27, 2016

http://www.gazettetimes.com/news/local/rural-fire-protection-up-in-the-air/article_d74d59ec-5ba0-5349-811f-d5ca398fb2b4.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

The CRFPD Board will be pursuing a solution to the District's current dilemma covered in this GT article during the weeks ahead. It's not an easy position for the Board to be in, given that the budget committee reflects the will of the citizens, while the Board has the sole responsibility to enter into contracts for the District. On Tuesday night those two duties collided and the Board was caught in "limbo" with a proposed budget that was not in sync with a tentative contract.

No matter how difficult, the Board will be looking for options which will satisfy all of the demands and will report back via this CRFPD Website with an update when it becomes available. The CRFPD Board values the services of the Corvallis Fire Department's highly professional firefighters and EMT's and looks forward to a speedy resolution to this situation.

OPEN BURNING IN THE CORVALLIS RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

The past three wildfire seasons were among the most severe and costly in the history of the Oregon Dept. of Forestry. In 2015 alone, more than 631,000 acres of forestland burned in Oregon, with firefighting costs totaling \$240.5 million. Hot, dry conditions, long-term buildup of forest fuels, and expansion of the wildland-urban interface have contributed to the increased fire activity and expense.

The Mid-Willamette Valley is not exempt from the seasonal risk of wildfire, and the risk will continue to be significant in 2016. A wildland fire knows no political or property boundaries and it typically has a limitless supply of fuel and air. A single spark can cause an area wide conflagration affecting public, private, and commercial property as well as inflicting devastating damage to the environment.

One of our wildland fire prevention goals is to reduce the number of human caused ignition sources, and subsequently reduce the incidence of wildland fire. To that end, we regulate the use of powered equipment, campfires, smoking, and outdoor burning during the times of year that wildfires are the most likely to occur.

The byproduct of any fire plume is pollution in the form of toxic smoke, which contains a number of irritants that can adversely affect public health. Compounding the issue, weather systems may cause noxious smoke to linger over a community for several days. To avoid this, the State DEQ limits burning to days in which there are favorable weather conditions for the smoke to naturally dissipate.

There are several governmental agencies that help to regulate solid waste disposal and outdoor burning: The Benton and Linn County Environmental Health Departments; The Oregon Department of Forestry; The Oregon Department of Agriculture; The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality; and, the Corvallis Fire Department. These agencies each have a role in enforcing the various regulations that define what types of materials may be burned, when they are permitted to be burned, and how to burn them safely without adversely affecting the community.

This informational guide is intended to help you navigate the various regulations for outdoor burning, and to direct you to the responsible agencies for inquiries and permits.

SOLID WASTE

According to the Oregon Administrative Rules, *"Solid Waste means all useless or discarded putrescible and non-putrescible materials, including but not limited to garbage, rubbish, refuse, ashes, paper and cardboard, sewage sludge, septic tank and cesspool pumpings or other sludge, useless or discarded commercial, industrial, demolition and construction materials, discarded or abandoned vehicles or parts thereof, discarded home and industrial appliances, manure, vegetable or animal solid and semi-solid materials, dead animals and infectious waste"*.

By definition, any material that you wish to dispose of by burning is considered solid waste.

The Benton and Linn County Environmental Health Departments regulate the accumulation of solid waste, and may direct the disposal of solid waste on privately owned property within their jurisdiction. The Benton County Code Chapter 21, Nuisance Abatement, pertains to private property that is offensive or hazardous to the health and safety of the public or which creates offensive odors or a condition of unsightliness. If a citizen has a question or concern about the accumulation or disposal of solid waste on private property they should contact their county's Environmental Health Department.

Very few solid waste materials can be legally disposed of by burning.

There are three general burn categories: Commercial Agriculture, Forestry/Slash, and Backyard Burning

AGRICULTURAL BURNING



Open burning for agricultural purposes is usually allowed anywhere in the state, unless fire safety or environmental health concerns restrict or prohibit burning on a given day.

Agricultural burning is limited to genuine 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 cannot be burned, even in an agricultural setting.

AGRICULTURAL BURNING cont.

Agricultural burning must be an integral and necessary part of the agricultural activity. The agricultural activity might include clearing of land, but does not include the construction and use of dwellings. Burning associated with a dwelling is considered to be domestic burning, backyard burning, or burning of yard debris and is not part of the farming operation.

Prohibited materials cannot be burned, even in an agricultural setting.

Agricultural open field burning, the burning of residue left from the harvest of a grass seed or cereal grains crop, is regulated in the Willamette Valley under a separate program operated by the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Questions about field burning should be directed to the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

FORESTRY/SLASH BURNING

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) regulates slash burning through the Smoke Management program. Slash burning is defined as the burning of debris from logging, and is limited to burning on forest lands, or within one-eighth mile of forest land, for the purpose of forest management. Slash Burning is not the clearing of forestland for any other purpose (i.e. land use change). Slash burning

Slash burning is defined as the burning of debris from logging, and is limited to burning on forest lands for forest management.

requires a Notification of Operation, Slash Registration (with fees), and a Burn Plan prior to burning. Contact the ODF for information and slash burning permits.



OPEN BURNING

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) administers the open burning program that pertains to most open burning in the state. Seasonal open burning is typically allowed from March 1st to June 15th and from October 1st to December 15th annually. These seasonal periods ***may be shortened*** due to extreme fire



weather conditions. Always call the CRFPD Burn Advisory Line (541-757-6971) prior to igniting your burn pile. Agricultural burning, as defined above, is largely exempt from the DEQ regulations, although there is a restriction on burning prohibited materials.

Open Burning Examples

- A fire in a burn barrel
- Burning piles of yard debris
- Burning stumps to clear land
- Burning construction debris
- Burning remains of demolished structures

OPEN BURNING cont.

Recreational burning (using seasoned firewood or presto logs), and burning for food preparation is also exempt from DEQ regulations. A recreational fire is defined in the Oregon Fire Code as “*an outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, portable outdoor fireplace, barbeque grill or barbeque pit, and has a total fuel area of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height. A recreational fire is used for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.*” The Oregon DEQ does not allow burning of materials other than dry natural wood in a recreational fire.

Any material moved off the property of origin cannot be burned anywhere else in the state without a special letter permit from DEQ.

Air pollution created by open burning can irritate eyes and lungs, obscure visibility, soil nearby surfaces, create annoying odors or pose other nuisance and health threats.

Because of the problems created by this activity, open burning

is restricted in selected parts of the state based on population growth and availability of alternatives. If you choose to burn, you are responsible for any fire, smoke or odors created from open burning and for any damage that results from your fire.

Open burning includes ANY burning outdoors.

REGULATIONS FOR OPEN BURNING

The Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is tasked with the enforcement of the open burning regulations in the State. The Corvallis Fire Department and the Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District have the delegated responsibility to regulate open burning within their jurisdiction, and to impose burn bans due to extreme fire danger. When any fire creates or adds to a hazardous situation, or a required permit for open burning has not been obtained, the fire code official is authorized to order the extinguishment of the fire.

According to the Oregon Administrative Rules, the following persons are considered a responsible person and are liable for open burning violations:

- Each person who is in ownership, control or custody of the real property on which open burning occurs, including any tenant thereof.
- Each person who is in ownership, control or custody of the material that is burned.
- Any person who causes or allows open burning to be initiated or maintained.

Burning the following materials is illegal anytime, anywhere in Oregon:

- Asbestos, asphalt
- Painted wood and wood treated with creosote or pentachlorophenol
- Automotive parts
- Dead animals
- Plastic & rubber products including tires
- Waste oil and petroleum treated and related materials
- Wet garbage & food waste
- Any material that creates dense smoke or noxious odors.
- Industrial, construction, and demolition waste (A special DEQ permit is required to burn these materials)



POLLUTION CONTROL

To promote efficient burning and prevent excessive emissions of smoke, a responsible person must assure that all combustible material is dried to the extent practicable. Loosely stack or windrow the combustible material to eliminate dirt, rocks and other noncombustible material and promote an adequate air supply to the burning pile, and provide the necessary tools and equipment to accomplish this. Periodically re-stack or feed the burning pile, insure that combustion is essentially completed and smoldering fires are prevented, and provide the necessary tools and equipment to accomplish this.

DELIBERATE OR NEGLIGENT BURNING

It is unlawful to deliberately, or through negligence, set fire to, or cause the burning of, combustible material in such a manner as to endanger the safety of persons or property. A responsible person must promptly extinguish any burning that is in violation of any rule. Negligent burning could result in a civil penalty of up to \$500 per violation in addition to being assessed the cost of the emergency response. The Corvallis Fire Department will report the burning of any prohibited materials to the DEQ which could result in a fine of up to \$10,000 per day for each violation.

PERSONAL LIABILITY

Outdoor burning in compliance with the open burning regulations does not exempt any person from any civil or criminal liability for consequences or damages resulting from such burning, nor does it exempt any person from complying with any other applicable law, ordinance, regulation, rule, permit, order, or decree of this or any other governmental entity having jurisdiction.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is responsible for wildfire prevention and protection of private forest land throughout the state of Oregon. In Benton County, ODF works very closely with Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District, and other local fire departments, often side by side suppressing non-structure fires. This partnership is a critical part of the complete and coordinated fire protection system- since fires do not recognize property boundaries or protection responsibilities. Given the right conditions, a house fire could spread to the wildland and become a Wildfire, or a Wildfire could catch houses ablaze.

Increasingly, more people are finding the benefits of living in the forest; larger properties with more privacy, less traffic, less noise, more wildlife and being closer to nature, just to name a few. However with more people moving into the forest there are greater risks of a Wildfire negatively effecting homes and properties. Additionally, Wildfires can start far away from roads, where they cannot quickly be extinguished. By the time firefighters get to a fire and begin suppression activities, it can already be quite large.

There are simple and easy steps home owners can take to aid firefighters and make their properties and homes safer- by creating “Defensible Space” which are strategic fuel breaks to slow or stop a wildfire’s momentum as it nears homes. Things homeowners can do:

- Remove flammable vegetation within 30-50 ft of a structure. Healthy green landscaping does not need to be removed but it should not be touching the house.
- Remove low hanging tree branches or “Ladder Fuels” up to 6-10 ft from the ground. This will stop a ground fire from becoming a canopy fire
- Move firewood piles at least 30ft away from a house
- Break-up continuous fuels by separating vegetation, so a fire burning in one bush cannot easily spread to another bush.

For more information on fire prevention and defensible space, contact the Oregon Department of Forestry- Philomath at 541-929-3266.

REMEMBER TO...

1. **Categorize Your Burn.** Review the definitions and categorize your proposed activity as an Agriculture, Forestry/Slash, or Open burn.
2. **Get Required Permits.** Contact the authority having jurisdiction for the category of open burning you would like to undertake, and *obtain the proper permits and associated conditions prior to any open burning.*
3. **Check Weather Conditions.** Prior to igniting your burn pile, call the CRFPD Burn Advisory Line (541-757-6971) to determine if it is an authorized burn day.
4. **Check Items to be Burned.** Only materials permitted by Oregon DEQ regulations may be burned.
5. **Burn in the Proper Location.**

The location for outdoor burning shall not be less than 50 feet from any structure or property line, and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 50 feet of any structure or property line.

Exceptions:

 - Fires in approved containers that are not less than 15 feet from a structure of property line.
 - The location for outdoor burning shall not be less than 25 feet from any structure or property line, and provisions shall be made to prevent the fires from spreading to within 25 feet of any structure or property line where the pile size is limited to 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height.

The location for recreational burning shall not be less than 25 feet from any structure or property line, and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 25 feet of any structure or property line.
6. **Constantly Attend Fire.** A responsible person must constantly attend all open burnings until the fire is extinguished.
7. **Extinguish Your Fire.** Always have on hand the capability and necessary equipment to extinguish the open burning fire. Also, ensure that the fire is completely extinguished before leaving it.

Alternatives to Open Burning of Solid Waste

- curbside pickup
- hauling material to the recycling center or landfill
- chip, shred, and compost the material
- reclaim any used lumber
- utilize construction product recycling programs

These alternatives improve environmental quality, reduce the chance of an unwanted wildland fire that could devastate your community, and have no seasonal restrictions.

Words From Your Fire Marshal

Open burning is just one method for the disposal of very limited types of solid waste generated on private property. There is always a responsibility encumbered upon any person to conduct open burning in a way that does not present a public nuisance. This includes smoke, odor, or endangering life or property. Always obtain the proper permits and follow the conditions of those permits while burning.

Thank you to our partners from Benton and Linn Counties, ODA, ODF, and DEQ in the creation of this informational guide.

Respectfully,

Jeff Prechel
Fire Marshal
Corvallis Fire Department

Who Are Your Board Members, and When Do They Meet?

The Board generally meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at Locke Station. The meetings are open to the public, and we encourage you to come and learn more about your fire district.

The Board members are:

Bob Conder, Chairman
Bob.Conder@corvallisrfd.com

George Mears, Vice Chairman
George.Mears@corvallisrfd.com

Steve Oda, Treasurer
Steve.Oda@corvallisrfd.com

Alex Polikoff, Secretary
Alex.Polikoff@corvallisrfd.com

Frank Perdicaro, Member at Large
Frank.Perdicaro@corvallisrfd.com

MORE INFO

Check out these links for more detailed information about how to prevent wildland urban interface fires in your community.

[OSFM Wildland Urban Interface Information Center](#)
[Ready, Set, Go](#)
[NFPA Firewise](#)



SIGN IT SO THEY SEE YOU!

[Order an address marker](#) to help visitors and emergency personnel locate your home.

Signs will be placed as soon as ground conditions allow.



LINN COUNTY SOLID WASTE

Rick Partipilo, Linn County Environmental Health Department
PO Box 100, Albany, OR 97321
541-967-3821
http://www.co.linn.or.us/health/eh/eh_solidw.htm

BENTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE

Gordon Brown, Benton County Environmental Health Division
PO Box 3020, Corvallis, OR 97339
541-766-6170
gordon.d.brown@co.benton.or.us



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

ODF West Oregon District in Philomath
24533 Alsea Hwy, Philomath, OR 97370
541-929-3266
<http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Documents/Fire/ForestlandBurningGuiderev10-16-13.pdf>

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

635 Capitol St. NE, Salem, OR 97301
503-986-4701
<http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/NaturalResources/Pages/Burning.aspx>



OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL (OSFM)

503-378-3473
4760 Portland Road NE, Salem, OR 97305
<http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/pages/index.aspx>

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Jennifer Claussen
503-378-5085
4026 Fairview Industrial Drive, Salem, OR 97302
DEQ complaint toll-free hotline 888-997-7888.
www.deq.state.or.us/aq/burning/openburning/openburn.asp



CORVALLIS RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

544 NW Lewisburg Ave, Corvallis, OR 97330
541-766-6476
CRFPD Burn Advisory 541-757-6971
<http://www.corvallisrfd.com/>

CORVALLIS FIRE DEPARTMENT

400 NW Harrison Blvd, Corvallis, OR 97330
541-766-6961
<http://www.corvallisoregon.gov/index.aspx?page=55>