

OKANOGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION 73 – 2021

DECLARATION OF HAZARDOUS FIRE CONDITIONS AND ESTABLISHING A BURN BAN

WHEREAS, dry summer weather conditions provide for high fire conditions in Okanogan County and the potential for large and catastrophic fires exists that may be a threat to life and cause damage or destruction to homes, businesses, orchards/farmlands and natural resources.

WHEREAS, upon consultation with rural Fire Chiefs, Fire Districts and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the group determined that hazardous fire conditions exist throughout the county; and

WHEREAS, the Tri-County Pest Control Agent has advised that fire blight is an ongoing issue throughout orchards in Okanogan County and the best method for preventing the spread of Fire Blight is to burn the infected trees; and,

WHEREAS, property owners/orchardists who need to burn fire blight trees shall contact the Tri-County Pest Control Office at (509-667-6827) to obtain an Okanogan County Agricultural Burn Permit before burning fire blighted debris; and

WHEREAS, the Tri-County Pest Control Agent may issue an Okanogan County Agricultural burn permit after a site inspection and after obtaining a signature from the property owner/orchardist on said permit, accepting full responsibility for compliance with all conditions of the permit, and

WHEREAS, before burning, property owners, having been issued an Okanogan County Agricultural Burn Permit, shall call the Okanogan County Sheriff Dispatch Center at 509-422-7232 (option #4), and must have on-site a sufficient water supply and fire tools to man the burn at all times until the fire is fully extinguished; and

WHEREAS, a Recreational Fire Exemption Permit can be obtained through the local fire district to promote tourism, economic, well-being, and enjoyment of the community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Okanogan County Commissioners' hereby approves the use of the Okanogan County Agricultural Burn Permit and the Recreational Fire Exemption Permit here attached.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Okanogan County Commissioners' as follows:

Section #1: It is hereby declared that hazardous fire conditions exist in Okanogan County and that actions involving various county and other local agencies must be taken to help alleviate threats and damages.

Section #2: With this resolution a County wide burn ban has been established and upon signing becomes effective immediately on the burning of all combustible materials which may include, but are not limited to, outdoor burning of yard vegetation or waste, non-emergent agricultural burning, exploding gun targets, and bullet tracer rounds. This burn ban will remain enforced until official notice is made by the County Commissioner's rescinding this burn ban.

Section #3: This burn ban is county-wide affecting all private and county properties in un-incorporated areas of the county, including DNR assessed properties. The County does not have jurisdiction within cities. Cities authorize their own burn ban.

Section #4: The board authorizes an Emergency Burn Exemption on the burning of Fire Blight infected fruit trees when the Okanogan County Agricultural burn permit is obtained and all permit conditions are complied with. The Tri-County Pest Control Agent is hereby authorized to proceed with issuing agricultural burn permits and shall provide a copy of the permit to the local fire districts and Sheriff's Dispatch.

Section #5: A Recreational Fire Exemption Permit may be obtained through the local fire district that serves the property the recreational fire is located on. The permit must be in writing, signed by both the fire district official and permittee, and a copy maintained at the local fire district.

Definitions:

Recreational fires:

An outdoor fire where the burning of materials is other than rubbish and where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, barbecue grill and is contained within 3 feet or less diameter concrete or steel ring, no less than 8 inches in height and has a total fuel area of 3 feet or less in diameter and fire is 2 feet or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.

Open Burning:

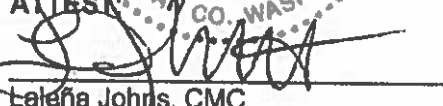
The burning of materials wherein the products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber is called open burning. Open burning does not include road flares, smudge pots and similar devices associated with safety or occupational uses typically considered open flames or recreational fires. For the purpose of this definition, a chamber shall be regarded as enclosed when, during the time combustion occurs, only apertures, ducts, stacks, flues or chimneys necessary to provide combustion air and permit the escape of exhaust gas are open.

This resolution does not apply to silvicultural burning on lands regulated solely by DNR's outdoor burning rules and regulations, fire in DNR recreation sites and campgrounds, or on U.S. Forest Service protected lands or within the Colville Reservation. However, the DNR, U.S. Forest Service and Colville Tribes may have similar burn bans in effect and citizens of the county are strongly encouraged to contact the DNR's burn information number at 1-800-323-BURN (2876), the U.S. Forest Service Tonasket Ranger District at 509-486-2186, and Methow Valley Ranger District at 509-996-4003, or Colville Confederated Tribes at 509-634-3100 for information on current outdoor burning restrictions of each agency.

Dated at Okanogan, Washington this 21 day of June 2021.

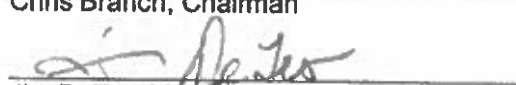


ATTEST


Lalena Johns, CMC
Clerk of the Board

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