

OKANOGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION 80 - 2019

DECLARATON OF HAZARDOUS FIRE CONDITIONS

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), it is hereby declared that a hazardous situation exists.

WHEREAS, Dan McCarthy, Pest Control Agent, has reported that fire blight has been a problem in several orchards throughout the county and the best method for preventing the spread of Fire Blight is to burn the infected trees; and,

WHEREAS, property owners/orchardist needing to burn fire blight trees shall contact Dan McCarthy (509-322-1286) to obtain an Okanogan County Special Burn Permit before burning,

WHEREAS, Dan McCarthy will issue an Okanogan County special burn permit after a site inspection and obtain a signature from the property owner/orchardist on said permit, having them accept responsibility to comply with all conditions of the permit,

WHEREAS, property owners having been issued an Okanogan County Special Burn Permit shall call the Okanogan County Sheriff Dispatch at 509-422-7232 before conducting any burning, and have on-site sufficient water supply and fire tools to man the burn at all times until fire is extinguished.

WHEREAS, Okanogan County has differing geographical areas producing hazardous fire conditions at different times; and to more closely align Okanogan County with DNR and USFS burn bans, Okanogan County has implemented three (3) fire danger rating areas: Okanogan Highlands, Methow Highlands, and Valley Floors; and

WHEREAS, Okanogan County Emergency Management will maintain a map of the affected fire danger rating areas and make it assessable to the public. (County Wide Advisory Map at www.okanoganDEM.org)

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Okanogan County Commissioners' as follows:

Section #1: That it is hereby declared that a hazardous situation exists and that actions involving various county and other local agencies must be taken to help alleviate threats and damages.

Section #2: Because of the hazardous fire conditions existing in the **Valley Fire Danger Rating Area** in Okanogan County, there is established a burn ban in the **Valley Fire Danger Rating Area**, by the Commissioners' on outdoor burning of combustible materials in the County. Combustible materials may include, but are not limited to, outdoor burning of yard waste, non-emergent agricultural burning, charcoal barbecues, exploding gun targets and bullet tracer rounds.

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 and 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.

Recreational fires:

The use of gas fired barbecues and propane fire pit is allowed. **(No charcoal barbecues allowed.)**

Definitions:

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.

Recreational Fire:

An outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, barbecue grill and is contained within a 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 2 feet or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes is a recreational fire.

Section #3: This burn ban is effective June 25, 2019 at 12:01 am and will continue to be enforced until official notice is made rescinding the burn ban by the Commissioners'.

Agriculture Burning:

Section #4: Dan McCarthy is hereby authorized to proceed with issuing special burn permits and will contact DNR, DOE, and local fire districts when arranging to burn said infected material. The board authorizes an emergency burn exemption on the burning of Fire Blight infected trees when a special permit is obtained and all permit conditions are complied with.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the attached list of contact numbers is hereby adopted as attachment "A".

Dated at Okanogan, Washington this 24 day of June 2019.

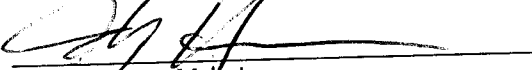
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OKANOGAN, WASHINGTON



Jim DeTro, Chairman



Chris Branch, Member



Andy Hover, Member


ATTEST: 

Laleña Johns, CMC
Clerk of the Board