

## Other Considerations

### ALTERNATIVES TO BURNING:

- Recycle paper products whenever possible.
- Dispose of waste at your local landfill rather than burn it.
- Compost yard debris and kitchen scraps.
- Reuse old lumber whenever possible.
- Buy a chipper and use chips for mulch and compost.
- Work with neighbors to organize a neighborhood cleanup day.
- Take hazardous materials, including oil-based paints, solvents, garden chemicals, and car fluids to a hazardous waster collection site.

### REDUCING THE IMPACT OF SMOKE:

- Assure that all combustible material is dried to the extent practicable. This includes covering the combustible material when practicable to protect the material from moisture including precipitation or dew.
- Loosely stack or windrow the combustible material to eliminate dirt, rocks or other noncombustible material and to promote an adequate air supply to the burning pile.
- Periodically re-stack or feed the burning pile to ensure that combustion is robust and completed efficiently.

### FIRE WEATHER WATCH AND RED FLAG WARNINGS:

When the State issues Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warnings due to dangerous fire conditions **ALL** open burning is prohibited. Including Camp fires, Portable propane/Patio Fire Places and Charcoal BBQ's. Citations may be issued.

## Important points

Never start a fire you do not have the ability to extinguish. The fire department has the legal right to bill for services rendered if they must come to your home to extinguish an illegal or negligent fire.

All fires must be fully extinguished by the time designated on the burn message.

It is against the law to conduct any burning that unreasonably interferes with enjoyment of life or property, creates a public nuisance, or is a hazard to public safety. You are responsible for any damage done to the property of others while burning.



For further information,  
please call the  
**McMinnville Fire Department**  
**503.435.5800**

## Burning Guidelines

### Burning guidelines for the McMinnville Fire Department



**McMinnville Burn Number**  
**503-472-3344**

## Backyard Burning

### WHAT IS BACKYARD BURNING:

The burning of yard debris, trimmings and clippings at a private home.

### WHO DOES BACKYARD BURNING APPLY TO:

Backyard burning applies to all residents burning at a private home within McMinnville Fire District regardless of whether they are located within city limits or not.

### WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE TO BURN:

Yard Debris - Including wood, needle or leaf materials from trees, shrubs, plants from the property immediately adjacent to a dwelling of not more than four family living units.

### WHAT IS ILLEGAL TO BURN:

Burning the following materials is illegal at any time:

- Asbestos
- Asphalt or industrial waste
- Automotive parts (including frames)
- Dead animals
- Plastic
- Rubber products
- Tires
- Waste oil, petroleum treated and related materials
- Wet garbage and food waste
- Any material creating dense smoke or noxious odors

### WHEN CAN YOU BURN:

#### Designated Burn Seasons

Fall - October 1 through December 15

Spring - March 1 through June 15

*Even during the designated burn season, it is necessary to phone the Fire Department Burn Number each day you wish to burn to confirm that burning is allowed that particular day.*

#### Seasonal Burning Restrictions:

Any time outside of the designated burn season or when weather conditions create the potential for fires to spread out of control quickly backyard and agricultural burning is prohibited.

## Agricultural Burning



### WHAT IS AGRICULTURAL BURNING:

An agricultural operation is defined as an activity that involves the raising, harvesting, or selling of crops, livestock, or poultry or their products. The activity must either show a profit or intend to show a profit to qualify.

### WHO DOES AGRICULTURAL BURNING APPLY TO:

Agricultural burning applies to all residents within the McMinnville Fire District regardless of their distance from city limits. It is important to know that simply residing in the rural area does not place you into the agricultural classification. You must be burning by-products of a legitimate agricultural operation as defined above.

### WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE TO BURN:

By-products generated by an agricultural operation only. This does not include waste generated by the home of the farmer or farm workers' homes.

### WHEN CAN YOU BURN:

Agricultural burning is allowed on approved burn days throughout the year. To ascertain if burning is allowed on a particular day, call the fire department burn number. Remember DEQ and your local fire department cannot determine acceptable burn days in advance due to constant weather changes.

### WHERE CAN YOU BURN:

Anywhere within McMinnville Fire District where there is a legitimate agricultural operation. Remember, McMinnville Fire Department does not play a part in determining burning regulations for surrounding areas outside McMinnville Fire District. Those located outside McMinnville Fire District should contact their local fire department.

## Other types of Burning

### COMMERCIAL BURNING:

There is no commercial burning allowed within the McMinnville Fire Department jurisdiction. Commercial burning is defined as any burning connected with a commercial project, i.e. clearing for a home (including private), a commercial building, a parking lot, a playground, etc. Although the material may be trees and brush, if it is a commercial site, it is considered commercial burning.

### SLASH/ LAND CLEARING:

The burning of materials generated by logging operations or the clearing of land that is not defined as agricultural or commercial. Permits are required for these types of burns. In order to obtain a permit you must contact the Department of Forestry. The McMinnville Fire Department does not issue permits for slash/land clearing burns. It is important to know that conducting slash/land clearing burns without a permit is a serious issue. The Department of Forestry will issue fines for those found burning without permits. The Department of Forestry 503-357-2191.

### RECREATIONAL BURNING:

Recreational burning is defined as an outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish and has total area of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.

Recreational burning is not regulated by season and is allowed year-round, except during fire weather watch/red flag warnings!

