

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

When may I burn?

During daylight hours when there is not a burn ban imposed. Check out website at www.gigharborfire.org or call us at (253) 851-3111.

What may I burn?

Outdoor burning is strictly limited to yard and garden debris (*natural vegetation only*) that is generated on the property.

May I burn my excess yard waste?

Residents who live outside of the non-attainment areas are allowed to burn their yard debris. If you aren't sure if you are in the non-attainment area, give us a call at (253) 851-3111.

What are my alternatives to burning my yard debris?

- ✓ **Haul it!** Rake up your excess material and haul it to your nearest recycling/transfer station. Also, check with your local waste disposal company for curbside yard waste recycling availability.
- ✓ **Compost it!** Composting yard and garden waste protects the air, land and water resources while providing a rich garden fertilizer.

Chip it! Chippers may be rented or a chipping service hired to take care of your material. Wood chips make excellent mulch around trees and shrubs.

Burning is regulated by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency and the Pierce County Fire Marshal.

For more information, contact:

Puget Sound Clean Air Agency:

1 (800) 522-3565

1 (800) 595-4341 (Air Quality hotline)

Pierce County Fire Marshal:

(253) 798-7179

Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One:

(253) 851-3111

In case of emergency, call 911!



OUTDOOR BURNING REGULATIONS

BE SURE TO BURN RESPONSIBLY!



IN WASHINGTON STATE:

- ✓ It is always illegal to use a Burn Barrel.
- ✓ It is always illegal to burn prohibited materials including:
 - Garbage or refuse
 - Cardboard and paper
 - Building materials (including paint, vinyl flooring, roofing, and scrap lumber)
 - Rubber products, including tires
 - Plastics or petroleum products
 - Material that produces smoke that is offensive or harmful to your neighbors.
- ✓ It is always illegal to smoke out your neighbor

The fire department may require your fire to be extinguished if the smoke emissions are offensive to occupants of surrounding property or if the fire is determined to constitute a hazardous condition.

PERMITS FOR RESIDENTIAL BURNING (YARDWASTE):

Permits for Residential Burning are issued for the calendar year, ending on December 31st.

To obtain a permit, please call us at (253) 851-3111. Be prepared to provide us with your name, phone number, email address, and the address you will be burning at.

Rules for burning yardwaste:

- ✓ It is the permittee's responsibility to ensure there is no burn ban prior to burning.
- ✓ Permittee must be in attendance of the fire at all times.
- ✓ Fires shall not be built under trees or utility lines.
- ✓ Only dry, natural vegetation may be burned (limbs, sticks, branches, vines and small stumps).
- ✓ Leaves, grass clippings, and garden waste should be composted to keep smoke to a minimum.
- ✓ A garden hose, connected to a water supply, is required on site for all residential fires. If a hose is unavailable, a shovel and 5 gallons of water must be available.

Size of burn pile:

Residential fires must adhere to the following guidelines:

- ✓ Will not exceed 4 feet in diameter by 4 feet in height.
- ✓ The pile shall be 50 feet from any structure, and 10 feet from any property lines.
- ✓ A 3-foot firebreak must be maintained around the burn pile.
- ✓ The fire shall not be built under any trees or utility lines.

RECREATIONAL FIRES:

Recreational fires are permitted everywhere in Gig Harbor. There is no permit required for this type of burn.

Recreational fires must adhere to the following guidelines:

- ✓ Shall be constantly attended by a person of knowledge in using fire extinguishing equipment.
- ✓ Limited to burning of dry, seasoned wood or charcoal briquettes ONLY.
- ✓ Conducted in designated areas or on private property
- ✓ A fire conducted on a beach or off a bulkhead must be constructed at least 25 feet from any combustible structures.
- ✓ Flammable liquids or accelerants cannot be used to start any recreational fire.
- ✓ Fire extinguishing equipment such as buckets, shovels, or garden hoses shall be readily available.

Size & Construction of Pile:

- ✓ Will not exceed 3 feet in diameter by 2 feet in height.
- ✓ Must be 25 feet away from any structure, and 10 feet from any property lines, fences, or decks.
- ✓ Must be in a metal or cement lined fire pit, or a purchased outdoor fireplace.
- ✓ The bottom of the pit may be of sand or mineral earth.

NOTICE:

The fire department is required to report infractions to the recreational fire requirements to the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. Non-compliance with these regulations can result in a civil penalty of up to \$16,000 or more per day. Please burn responsibly.