

In Washington State...

- ⇒ **It is always illegal to use a BURN BARREL.**
- ⇒ **It is always illegal to burn prohibited materials including:**
- ⇒ **It is always illegal to smoke out**
 - ◆ Garbage or refuse
 - ◆ Cardboard and paper
 - ◆ Building materials including paints, 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

your neighbor. If they complain, you are required to put the fire out immediately. You can be fined for causing a nuisance, and you may be held financially liable for damages caused by your fire.

For more information about other types of burning and regulations, contact your fire department or the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency:

**1-800-552-3565 or
1-800-595-4341 (air quality hotline)**

www.pscleanair.org

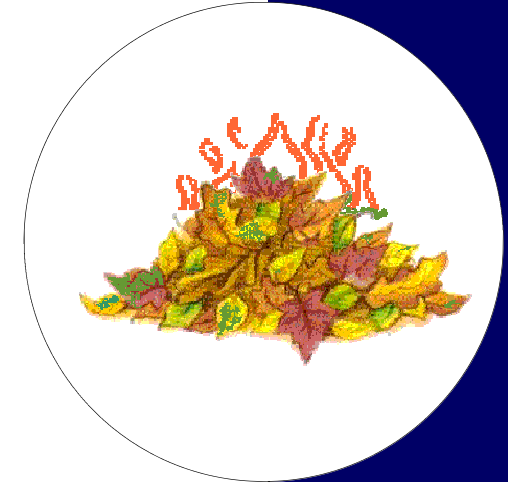


10222 Bujacich Road NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98332
253-851-3111

www.gigharborfire.org

Burn Ban Information
253-851-0089

Residential Yard Debris Burning Guidelines



Be sure to burn responsibly!

**Gig Harbor Fire
& Medic One**

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Residential Yard & Garden Debris Burning

Residential Yard & Garden Debris burning is allowed in Pierce County Fire District #5 to residents who live outside city limits and the non-attainment area, and only with a verbal permit by calling at 851-3111.

- ◆ Permittee must be in attendance of the fire at all times.
- ◆ Residential burn size will not exceed 4 feet in diameter by 4 feet in height.
- ◆ The pile must be 50 feet from any structure and 10 feet from property lines. Fires shall not be built under trees or utility lines.
- ◆ A 3 foot firebreak must be maintained around the burn pile.
- ◆ Only dry, natural vegetation may be burned such as limbs, sticks, branches, vines and small stumps.
- ◆ Leaves, grass clippings and garden waste should be composted, rather than burned to keep smoke to a minimum.
- ◆ A garden hose, connected to a water supply is required on site for all residential fires, or a shovel and 5 gallons of water must be at the burn site at all times.
- ◆ No outdoor burning shall be allowed during any stage of an air pollution episode or impaired air quality, as directed by the Puget Sound Clean air Agency.



Frequently Asked Questions:

May I burn my excess yard waste?

- ◆ Limited residential outdoor burning is allowed in portions of Pierce County Fire District #5. Residents who live outside the non-attainment areas are allowed to burn their yard debris. Contact Pierce County Fire District #5 to see if you are outside this area.

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!** Some residents are choosing to chip their debris. Chippers may be rented or a chipping service hired to take care of your material. Wood chips make excellent mulch around trees and shrubs and can also be used to soften garden paths.
- ◆ **MULCH IT!** By mulching, we can easily put nature's recycling system to work in our own backyard. Spread yard and garden debris around shrubs, trees, and other plantings, Mulching keeps the soil loose and moist, smothers weeds, prevents soil loss and releases nutrients as it decomposes.

When may I burn?

- ◆ During daylight hours when there is not a burn ban imposed. Call the Burn Ban information line 851-0089 to check on the current burn status, then call 851-3111 for a permit.

What may I burn?

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

Burning of the following materials is prohibited:

Processed wood products including finished lumber, paper products, plywood and particle board, construction or demolition debris, paints, asphalt and petroleum products, plastic products, tires and rubber products, garbage and dead animals.

Discontinuance of permit:

Complaints arising from smoke or flying ash will cause the permittee to do one or more of the following:

1. Burn the fire hotter to consume the smoke
2. Do not add additional fuel that causes smoke
3. Extinguish the fire

The fire department is required to report infractions of these 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.