

## **Review of Outdoor Burning Regulations**

Outdoor burning, as it applies to Hat Island, is categorized into 3 types: Recreational fires, Residential yard-debris burning and land clearing fires. All of these fires are regulated by state law and the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA). The PSCAA regulates and enforces fires within King, Pierce, Kitsap and Snohomish counties. Our island is governed by the rules for unincorporated areas. All outdoor fire permitting is granted through the Hat Island Snohomish County Fire District #27, on the island. The following are the overriding state laws that apply to all fires:

The use of a burn barrel is illegal throughout the state.

Fires cannot be within 50 feet of any structure.

Fires are always prohibited during air-quality burn bans (as determined by the PSCAA). Fires may also be banned during dry weather and high fire danger (as determined by the local fire district).

A person capable of extinguishing the fire must attend at all times, and the fire must be extinguished before leaving it. Additional restrictions can be applied by the local fire district as needed.

These materials are prohibited as fuel for a fire: Garbage or refuse, dead animals, asphalt materials, petroleum products, paints, rubber products, plastics, paper/cardboard (other than what is necessary to start the fire), treated wood, construction/demolition debris, metal, or any substance (other than natural vegetation) that normally releases toxic emissions, dense smoke, or obnoxious odors when burned.

It is always illegal to smoke out your neighbor. If smoke from your fire bothers your neighbors, damages their property or otherwise causes a nuisance, you must immediately put the fire out. Fire burning permits may be revoked by the local fire district and fires will be put out if sufficient circumstances exist, such as failure to abide by the permit or state conditions.

The term "Recreational fire" means cooking fires or campfires using charcoal or firewood that occur in designated areas or on private property. A permit is required for "recreational fires" with a total fuel area greater than 3 feet in diameter and/or 2 feet in height. These fires must be within a contained area, such as a fire pit with a rock/brick/metal border. At no time are any beach fires permitted on Hat Island. They will be put out when discovered/reported.

Residential yard-debris burning fires are limited to vegetative material grown on the property, such as leaves, branches and twigs. A permit from the fire department is required and subject to size restrictions noted on the permit. Proof of adequate fire control measures such as water supply and full-time attendance of the fire must be maintained.

Land clearing or stump burning fires are under strict control and must be permitted by the local fire department. A permit and inspection of the proposed burn area will be conducted as part of the process. Proof of adequate water supply or heavy equipment sufficient to maintain control of the fire must be present at all times with operating personnel. These fires must not be fueled after sundown or if winds become an issue for embers and firebrands. Control must be maintained at all times.

All fires that do not meet regulations can be subject to heavy fines and financial responsibility should property damage or fire-fighting efforts be required as a result of willful or negligent actions of the permittee.

Permits may be obtained by e-mailing Mike Worthy at [worthymd@hotmail.com](mailto:worthymd@hotmail.com) or by leaving a message on the fire department phone at 360-444-6886