



HAT ISLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT
SNOHOMISH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION
DISTRICT 27

**POLICY ON PERMITS FOR LAND CLEARING AND
RESIDENTIAL YARD DEBRIS, RECREATIONAL FIRES, AND
BURN BANS**

Purpose of the Policy. Fire poses the highest risk to life and property on Hat Island. However, the Fire Department recognizes the reasonable need by property owners within the Fire District to use controlled fire to dispose of wood and vegetation and also the desire to have recreational fires.

Policy. The Fire Department may issue burning permits to owners of property within the Fire District to allow controlled fires that are larger than recreational fires (i.e. campfires) for the purposes of disposing of vegetation and clean, combustible materials, provided, this is allowed by law, the burning does not create a preventable hazard to the island, and the property owner takes specific measures and actions to reduce the risk. Also, the application of the burn permit should be easy to obtain. Permits are only issued by trained personnel.

Definitions and Procedures.

Property Owners. Property owners are those persons listed by the Hat Island Community as being owners of lots within the Fire District. Permits are issued only to lot owners to ensure the accountability for the consequences of damage or violations and because of the responsibilities described in the permit.

Land Clearing Burn Permits. This is a special permit issued only to lot owners by the Fire Chief or their designee for large quantities of vegetation and trees. See the land clearing permit application for additional details.

Residential Yard Burning Burn Permits. These are generally intended for fires that are larger than recreational fires and smaller than Land Clearing fires. See the residential yard burning permit application for additional details. These are issued only to lot owners by the Hat Island Office staff during regular business hours or by any officer of the Fire Department during non-business hours.

Recreational Fire. A recreational fire is a small fire that is allowable when there is NOT a burn ban in effect. A permit is not issued for recreational fires. Beach fires are strictly prohibited at all times.

Requirements for a recreational fire:

1. The fuel for a recreational fire is no more than two feet in diameter and two feet high.
2. The fire must be contained in a fire pit made of the rock, brick, or metal border.
3. A pressurized water hose and a shovel must be present.
4. An adult must be present.

5. Non-lot owners must have agreed to the rules and regulations of the island. In all cases, the lot owner is responsible for the conduct and consequences of their guests.

Law. Means the common definition but also rules and regulations made by the Snohomish County Fire Marshall and the Puget Sound Air Quality.

Pre-Fire On-Site Inspection. This is required for Land Clearing Permits and is done by the Fire Chief or their designee. For a Residential Yard Debris Permit, the typical factors that triggers an on-site inspection are:

1. The owner is not experienced or uncertain about burning a large pile,
2. In the judgment of the staff person issuing the permit, an on-site inspection is in the best interests of the community,
3. The lot is undeveloped and the owner is bringing water from another lot or a suitable clearing will need to be made prior to the fire.

The on-site inspection is done by a member of the Fire Department.

Denial of a Burn Permit. Typically, permits may be denied when:

1. The permittee objects to or refuses to comply with any of the conditions of the permit,
2. The permittee is hostile to or uncooperative with the person who is issuing the permit,
3. The permittee has a history of reckless disregard for the rules and regulations of the Hat Island Community or has violated any of the conditions of previous burn permits.
4. The permittee clearly does not comprehend or understand their responsibilities or duties outlined in the permit.
5. A denial of a burn permit that is not issued by the Fire Chief, may be appealed to the Fire Chief. The decision by the Fire Chief is final.

Revoking a Burn Permit. The Fire Chief or their designee can revoke a burn permit at any time. The reason for the revoking a permit will be explained to the adult who is present at the fire. Typically, the reasons involve risk to the neighboring property and violating the conditions of the permit. However, a permit may be revoked if the people at the site of the fire do not fully cooperate with the Fire Department.

Expiration of a Burn Permit. A burn permit is for one burning event at the same lot. The permit is good for 14 days. However, a burn ban nullifies all active permits.

Burn Ban. A Burn Ban is determined by the Snohomish County Fire Marshall or the Puget Sound Air Quality. The only fire allowed during a burn ban are those that are fully contain and enclosed, meaning top, bottom and all sides, in a non-combustible structure that is above ground, and no flammable materials leave the container. Examples are gas or pellet outdoor cookers.

Cost of Fire Department Response. Should a fire leave the control of the adult present and the Fire Department responds to attack the fire, the property owner may be charged a minimum of \$1,000 for each fire engine responding and for each hour of being out of service. Example, two fire engines respond and are out of service for 2 hours, the cost would be \$4,000.

Violation of Permit or No Permit-Response. When the Fire Department learns of a possible fire that is a violation of a burn ban or a permit, the Fire Department will prepare for an immediate fire suppression response. However, the Incident Commander has the discretion to assess the situation before rolling a fire engine and, if the situation warrants, the situation can be handled by the adults present and while being supervised by the Fire Department.