

BURN PILE TIPS

Please consider chipping or recycling your yard debris. If burning is the only option, it is less likely to escape control by following some simple safety tips:

- ✦ **Call before you burn** - Burning regulations are not the same in all areas and can vary with the weather and fuel conditions. Check with your local Oregon Department of Forestry district, fire protective association, or local air authority to learn if there are any current burning restrictions or regulations, and whether a permit is required.
- ✦ **Know the weather forecast** - Never burn on dry or windy days.
- ✦ **Clear a 10-foot radius around your pile** - Make sure there are no tree branches or power lines above.
- ✦ **Keep your burn pile small** - Small piles, 4 x 4 feet in dimension, are recommended. Add debris in small amounts as existing material is consumed.
- ✦ **Always have water and fire tools on site** - When burning, have a charged water hose, bucket of water, and shovel and dirt nearby to extinguish the fire. Drown the pile with water, stir the coals, and drown again, repeating until the fire is DEAD out.
- ✦ **Stay with the fire until it is completely out** - Monitoring a debris burn continually from start to finish until dead out is required by state law. Go back and recheck old burn piles, as they can retain heat for several weeks and rekindle when the weather warms and winds blow.

- ✦ **NEVER use gasoline** or other accelerants to start or increase your open fire. Every year, approximately 60 percent of all burns treated at the Oregon Burn Center are the result of backyard debris burning.

- ✦ **Burn ONLY yard debris** - State regulations prohibit the open burning of any material that creates dense smoke or noxious odors.

Escaped debris burns are the leading human-caused fire issue in Oregon, particularly in the spring and fall.

For more tips on wildfire prevention, visit the Keep Oregon Green site, www.KeepOregonGreen.org/.



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

