



City of Salem Open Burning Regulations

Within the City of Salem:

No open burning is permitted within the Salem city limits at any time except:

- **Recreational fires** – Small (maximum 3' diameter by 2' in height) fires for entertainment purposes only. Clean-burning wood products only. No burning of yard debris is permitted.
- **Ceremonial fires** – Small fires for religious, cultural, or special events. **A written permit issued by the Salem Fire Department is required.**
- **Agricultural burning** – Burning of natural vegetative material for commercial agricultural operations only. **A written permit issued by the Salem Fire Department is required.**

Within the Salem Suburban Rural Fire Protection District:

- **Residential backyard burning** of yard debris is permitted between March 1st and June 15th, and again between October 1st and December 15th.
- **Agricultural burning** (for commercial agricultural operations only) is allowed. No written permit is needed.
- **Recreational and ceremonial fires** are permitted anytime. No written permit is needed. Clean-burning wood products only. No burning of yard debris is permitted.

Safety Regulations for All Types of Open Burning

- The fire must be constantly attended by a responsible person until it is extinguished.
- A water supply (hose or bucket of water), shovel, rake and/or fire extinguisher must be readily available.
- No burning is allowed within 15 feet of any building, combustible deck, fence, or other structure.
- Any burning located between 15 and 25 feet to any building, combustible deck, etc. must be in an *approved burn receptacle* and limited to not larger than 3' by 2' in size.
- Any burning located between 26 and 50 feet to any building, combustible deck, etc. must be limited to not larger than 4' by 3' in size.
- Backyard/open burning (not allowed inside the City of Salem) is limited to materials from trees, shrubs, or plants that grow in a landscaped yard (grass clippings, tree leaves/needles, small branches, shrub clippings).
- Call the **Burning Information Number 503-588-6420** each day to verify if open burning is authorized. Open burning may not be allowed based on atmospheric conditions or fire safety considerations.

Burning Violations

If a violation of open burning rules occurs, the Salem Fire Department is authorized to order the fire extinguished or to extinguish the fire itself.

Salem Fire Department
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