

CITY OF COLVILLE CURRENT BURNING REGULATIONS

FIRE REGULATIONS: For small outdoor recreational fires and yard debris disposal fires.

EFFECTIVE: October 15th to May 15th, follow the rules below. May 15th to October 15th, obtain a special permit from the City of Colville Fire Chief or his designated representative.

RULES: Within the city limits of Colville, persons may have a small outdoor fire for cooking, barbeques, or yard debris disposal without a written permit during the period of October 15th to May 15th, provided the following rules and regulations, duly promulgated by the City of Colville, are observed. A written permit obtained from the Fire Chief or his designated representative is required for any fire that does not meet these requirements.

Failure to comply with any of the rules voids permission to burn, and the person so burning is in violation of the International Fire Code as adopted by the State of Washington and the City of Colville, and subject to penalties set forth therein.

- (1) **Prohibited materials.** The following materials may not be burned in any outdoor fire: garbage, dead animals, asphalt, petroleum products, paints, rubber products, plastics, paper (other than what is necessary to start a fire), cardboard, 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.
- (2) **Hauled material.** No outdoor fire may contain material (other than firewood) that has been hauled from an area outside of Colville.
- (3) **Unlawful outdoor burning:** It is unlawful for any person to cause or allow outdoor burning that causes an emission of smoke or any other air contaminant that is detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of any person, that causes damage to property or business, or that causes a nuisance.
 - (a) Any person affected by outdoor burning may file a complaint with the permitting agency or other designated enforcing agency.
 - (b) Any agency responding to an outdoor burning complaint should attempt to determine if the burning on any particular property is unlawful. This may include, but is not limited to, considering whether the burning has caused an emission of smoke or any other air contaminant in sufficient quantity to be unlawful.
 - (c) Any person responsible for such unlawful outdoor burning must immediately extinguish to fire.
- (4) **Burning in outdoor containers.** Containers (residential incinerators) used for outdoor burning, must be constructed of concrete or masonry with a completely enclosed combustion chamber and equipped with a permanently attached spark arrestor constructed of iron, heavy wire mesh, or other noncombustible material with openings not larger than one-half inch, and they may only be used in compliance with these regulations.

(5) **Other general requirements:**

- (a) A person capable of extinguishing the fire must attend it at all times, and the fire must be extinguished before leaving it.
- (b) No fires are to be within fifty feet of structures.
- (c) Permission from a landowner, or owner's designated representative, must be obtained before starting an outdoor fire.
- (d) A serviceable shovel and at least five gallons of water or a charged garden hose line must be within the immediate vicinity of the fire.
- (e) Material to be burned shall be in hand built piles no more than four feet in diameter and three feet in height. Only one pile at a time may be burned.
- (f) The material to be burned must be placed on bare soil on private property and not in the streets or alleys.
- (g) Burning must be done during periods of calm to very light winds.
- (h) Residential incinerators shall be located no less than fifteen feet from any structure and not less than five feet from any property line.
- (i) Use of residential incinerator may be restricted by the Fire Chief when located within 500 feet of brush or grass covered areas during periods of high fire hazard weather conditions; a minimum clearance of ten feet shall be maintained between incinerators and all rubbish, dry grass, weeds, vegetation, and any other combustible material.

For the purpose of these rules, the following definitions and directions will apply:

Outdoor Recreational Fire: means cooking fires, campfires, and bonfires using charcoal or firewood that occur in designated areas or on private property for cooking, pleasure, or ceremonial purposes. Fires used for debris disposal purposes are not considered recreational fires.

Yard Debris Disposal Fire: means the outdoor burning of leaves, clippings, prunings and other yard and gardening refuse originating on lands immediately adjacent and in close proximity to a human dwelling and burned on such lands by the property owner or his or her designee.

General Rules: The City of Colville reserves the right to restrict burning due to extreme fire weather or to prevent restriction of visibility and excessive air pollution.

Persons burning under these rules are responsible for any claims arising out of activities performed under these rules including claims resulting from fire, smoke, or water.

Extra copies of these rules may be obtained from the Office of Building and Planning.

NEW BURNING REGULATIONS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2007

As of January 1, 2007, land-clearing and residential outdoor burning will no longer be legal in any area designated as an Urban Growth Area (UGA) under the Growth Management Act. The City of Colville, and several other cities in Stevens County, were designated Urban Growth Areas by Stevens County when the county decided to plan under the Growth Management Act several years ago. The Department of Ecology is committed to working with cities, counties, and citizens groups to promote viable alternatives to burning in all communities, especially those where the ban on open burning takes effect in 2007. The applicable law and rule involved are [RCW 70.94.743](#) and [WAC 173-425-040\(2\)](#).