

## Backyard burning

### WHAT IS IT?

The burning of debris in an outdoor fireplace, burn barrel, backyard incinerator, or piles of yard debris that is not in support of an agricultural operation. Camp fires or recreation fires are not subject to these rules.

### WHEN IS IT ALLOWED?

#### INSIDE A SPECIAL CONTROL AREA

- Between **March 1 through June 15** and **Oct. 1 through Dec. 15** (local fire district ordinances may be more restrictive)
- A written burn permit from Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is required during fire season for those within an ODF Forest Protection District. Contact ODF for more information

#### OUTSIDE A SPECIAL CONTROL AREA

- Burning may occur on any day approved by the local fire district

### WHAT IS A SPECIAL CONTROL AREA?

- Any area within three miles of a boundary of a city with a population more than 1,000 but fewer than 45,000 people
- Any area within six miles of the boundary of a city with a population of more than 45,000 people

### WHAT CAN I BURN?

#### INSIDE A SPECIAL CONTROL AREA

- Yard debris: wood, needles, or leaves from plants grown and burned on the property of origin

#### OUTSIDE A SPECIAL CONTROL AREA

- Construction waste: lumber, crates, etc.
- Demolition waste: includes land-clearing debris
- Domestic waste: includes yard debris

### WHAT CAN'T I BURN?

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) prohibits the burning of these materials:

- Tires (including when starting a fire)
- Plastics
- Decomposable garbage (e.g., organic material, paper)
- Petroleum and petroleum-related materials
- Asphalt and asphalt materials
- Chemicals (pesticides, cleaners, detergents, etc.)
- Material that produces black or dense smoke

## Agricultural burning

### WHAT IS IT?

The burning of agricultural waste generated by an operation that uses, or intends to use, land primarily for the purpose of obtaining a profit by raising, harvesting, and selling crops, or raising and selling animals (including poultry), or the products of animal husbandry. Prohibited materials, such as tires, can't be burned even in an agricultural setting. Demolition waste also is not considered agricultural waste even if it is from a farm structure, and cannot be burned.

### IS LAND CLEARING AGRICULTURAL BURNING?

Agricultural burning may include brush cleared from land if an agricultural commodity will be planted or livestock raised for profit but does not include burning debris for the construction of buildings.

### CAN I USE A BURN BARREL?

Burn barrels are inefficient and polluting because they produce low temperature fires and toxic smoke. This toxic smoke stays at ground level, where it is easily inhaled. It is better to burn in a loosely stacked pile for better airflow and combustion.

## Slash burning

### WHAT IS IT?

Slash burning is the burning of debris from logging and is limited to burning on forest lands. The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) regulates slash burning. Contact ODF for information and slash burning permits at 503-859-2151.

## ONLINE RESOURCES FROM ODA

For more information about the Smoke Management program and updates, see our website at [Oregon.gov/ODA/Programs/NaturalResources/Pages/Burning.aspx](http://Oregon.gov/ODA/Programs/NaturalResources/Pages/Burning.aspx)

For email subscriptions and burning forecasts, go to [Oregon.gov/ODA/Programs/NaturalResources/Pages/Weather.aspx](http://Oregon.gov/ODA/Programs/NaturalResources/Pages/Weather.aspx)

## Special burning rules in the Willamette Valley

### GRASS SEED

#### AND CEREAL GRAIN PRODUCERS

Burning of residues associated with grass seed and cereal grain production in the Willamette Valley is a special type of agricultural burning under Oregon law. The open burning of a field of residue from these types of crops is called **field burning**. Field burning occurs between June and October of each year. The burning of a consolidated stack of these types of crop residues is called **stack burning**. Stack burning no longer is permitted.

In all cases, the burning of residues associated with grass seed and cereal grain production in the Willamette Valley requires a permit from the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). For information and permits, call ODA's Smoke Management Program at 503-986-4701.

## DIAL 911 FOR FIRE EMERGENCIES



**Oregon**  
Department  
of Agriculture

3/2015

### NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM AREA

635 Capitol St. NE, Salem, OR 97301-2532

503-986-4701

[oregon.gov/ODA](http://oregon.gov/ODA)

### IN COOPERATION WITH

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Oregon Department of Forestry

Oregon State Fire Marshal

## Regulatory agencies

### OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL (OSFM)

503-378-3473

4760 Portland Road NE, Salem, OR 97305

[oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/contact\\_us.shtml](http://oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/contact_us.shtml)

- Principal fire authority
- May refuse, revoke, or postpone any burning activity as needed to protect life, property, or the natural resources of the state
- Works in cooperation with other state, county, and local regulatory agencies, including fire districts, to enforce burning regulations and restrictions

### OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

503-378-8240

4026 Fairview Industrial Drive, Salem, OR 97302

[www.deq.state.or.us/aq/burning/openburning/openburn.asp](http://www.deq.state.or.us/aq/burning/openburning/openburn.asp)

- Demolition burning: structures or land clearing
- Construction burning: lumber, crates, and packaging materials
- Commercial burning: waste from offices, warehouses, and wholesale/retail yards
- Industrial burning: processed waste from manufacturing or industrial processes
- Residential burning: yard debris and paper products

### OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

503-986-4701

635 Capitol St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

[oregon.gov/ODA/programs/NaturalResources/Pages/Burning.aspx](http://oregon.gov/ODA/programs/NaturalResources/Pages/Burning.aspx)

- Field burning: grass seed and cereal grain
- Stack burning: grass seed and cereal grain straw

### OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

503-945-7200

2600 State St., Salem, OR 97301

[oregon.gov/odf/pages/fire/fire.aspx](http://oregon.gov/odf/pages/fire/fire.aspx)

- Slash burning: debris from logging

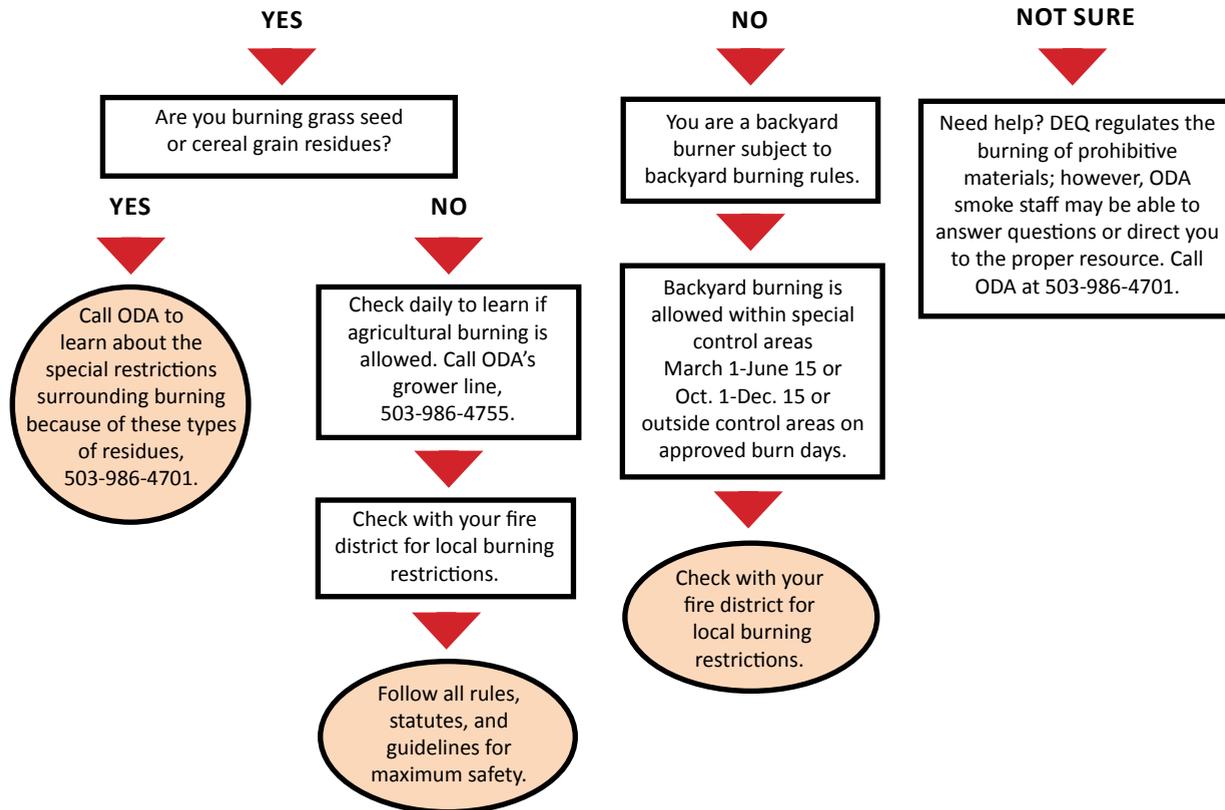
### LOCAL FIRE DISTRICTS

Call OSFM to find your fire district

- Emergency response: fire safety and fire suppression
- Backyard burning: yard debris
- Agriculture burning: inside special control areas

## Are you considered an agricultural operator under Oregon's burn laws?

Do you use, or plan to use, the land on which the burning will occur primarily for obtaining a profit by raising, harvesting, and selling crops, or raising and selling animals?



### Examples of agricultural operations and agricultural waste

#### Horses and livestock

A horse-breeding ranch that sells foals on a regular basis with the primary intention to make a profit is an agricultural operation. However, the ranch is not an agricultural operation if horses are sold occasionally to offset costs.

#### Agricultural waste

The brush cleared from land that immediately will be planted in a crop or used to raise livestock for profit is considered agricultural waste. If an agricultural activity will not be performed on the land cleared, the brush removed is not agricultural waste.

#### Orchards

An orchard operation may be an agricultural operation if enough producing trees exist in order to obtain profit (not a hobby orchard). If a dead tree is removed from a large producing orchard and replaced with a new tree, the dead tree would be agricultural waste. Trees removed for building construction are not agricultural waste.

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# Burning Questions?

A guide to burning regulations in the Willamette Valley



- AGRICULTURAL
- BACKYARD
- FIELD
- SLASH
- STACK

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE