



Fire Danger on the Rise Burn Ban Expanded to Stage II

(KITSAP COUNTY, Wash.)

Due to rising fire danger and stretched resources, the Kitsap County Fire Marshal is expanding the current burn ban to prohibit all outdoor fires, effective immediately and until further notice.

The move is prompted by several factors. Hot and dry weather has made conditions ripe for ignition and fast fire spread, and forecasts predict more of the same. Multiple local brush fires broke out over the weekend, underscoring the danger. Large fires in progress across the state have depleted all but local firefighting resources. "Escaped outdoor fires are a leading cause of wildland fires," notes Kitsap County Fire Marshal David Lynam. "Given these circumstances, the best way to prevent a big incident in our county right now is by preventing it from starting in the first place."

Under a Stage II Fire Danger Burn Ban, no open burning is allowed. All outdoor burning permits remain suspended, recreational fires are prohibited, and only propane or natural gas-fueled cooking fires are allowed.

While outdoor fires are to blame for many dangerous brush fires, there are other causes as well and Lynam says, "The situation is serious, and we really need everyone's help limiting all ignition sources." Dispose of smoking materials properly. Secure trailer chains to prevent sparks. Practice fire-safe target shooting (where target shooting is allowed). Defer mowing until conditions improve.

For burn ban status updates, contact the Bainbridge Island Fire Department at 206-842-7686 or visit www.bifd.org for up to date information.