



EAST JEFFERSON FIRE RESCUE

Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG)

Number: SOG 4007a

Land Clearing & Burning Guidelines

SECTION 1.0 PURPOSE

This SOG shall describe outdoor burning guidelines and the permit process for East Jefferson Fire Rescue in accordance with the Washington State Department of Ecology, Olympic Regional Clean Air Authority (ORCAA) per R.C.W. 70-94, WAC 173-425 and the International Fire Code 2018 (IFC). It is the policy of East Jefferson Fire Rescue to minimize air contaminant emissions in a safe manner that is consistent with state law.

SECTION 2.0 CONDITIONS AND GUIDELINES:

2.1 CONDITIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL BURNING – PERMIT NOT REQUIRED

There is no land clearing between July 1st thru September 30th in accordance with Jefferson County Resolution #42-05. If an unusual fire danger index is present before or after the established dates, no land clearing burning can be established prior to July 1 and extend past Sept 30. If at any time DNR declares an unusual or HIGH fire danger index during this time, then no burning of any type will be allowed to include recreational fires, beach fires, bonfires or the use of portable outdoor fire places. This may also include the use of briquettes, charcoal, wood pellets or any other material commonly used for cooking which when ignited produces heat and flame, fire.

- a. ONLY recreational fires are allowed within the city limits of Port Townsend and the UGAs of Irondale/Port Hadlock.
- b. Only one (1) residential burn pile no more than three (3) feet in diameter and two (2) feet or less in height is allowed at any time. Only natural vegetation may be burned. No processed wood or debris of any kind may be burned. Larger piles are considered land clearing and require a permit.
- c. No burning is allowed when wind speeds exceed 5 MPH or on foggy days.
- d. If any fire creates a nuisance from smoke or from flying ash the fire must be extinguished. East Jefferson Fire Rescue or any other fire suppression agency is authorized to extinguish or order any fire to be extinguished if found to be a nuisance or a hazard
- e. **Recreational fires** shall not be conducted within twenty five (25) feet of any structure, combustible material or standing timber. Conditions that could cause the spread of a fire shall be eliminated prior to ignition. Fires in approved containers not less than fifteen (15) feet from any structure.
- f. **Bonfires** shall not be conducted within fifty (50) feet of any structure, combustible material, or standing timber. Conditions that could cause the spread of fire shall be eliminated prior to ignition.
- g. **Portable outdoor fireplaces** shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall not be operated within fifteen (15) feet of any structure, combustible material or standing timber. Conditions that could cause the spread of fire must be eliminated prior to ignition.
- h. **Beach fires** are allowed with permission of the land owner. All established conditions and guidelines shall be followed with regard to residential burning. Only seasoned dry fire wood shall be utilized for beach fires. Beach wood or drift wood is not allowed to be burned.
Open-flame cooking devices. Charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within 10 feet (3048 mm) of combustible construction. Open flames such as from candles, lanterns, kerosene heaters and gas-fired heaters shall not be

located on or near decorative material or similar combustible materials. Torches and other devices, machines or processes liable to start or cause fire shall not be used.

Exceptions:

1. One- and two-family dwellings.
 2. Where buildings, balconies and decks are protected by an automatic sprinkler system.
 3. LP-gas cooking devices having LP-gas container with a water capacity not greater than 21/2 pounds [nominal 1 pound (0.454 kg) LP-gas capacity].
- i. **Attendance** by a reasonable person during open burning, recreational fires, bonfires, beach fires or the use of portable outdoor fireplaces shall be continuously attended until the fire is extinguished and cold to the touch.
 - j. A shovel and connected water hose shall be on site and immediately available or a minimum of one (1) portable fire extinguisher with a 4-A rating or greater.
 - k. Metal burn barrels are against the law and not permitted.

2.2 CONDITIONS FOR LAND CLEARING AND BURNING GUIDELINES – PERMIT REQUIRED

- a. No land clearing burning is allowed from July 1st thru September 30th in accordance with Jefferson County Resolution #42-05. If an unusual fire danger index is present before or after the established dates, no land clearing burning can be established prior to July 1 and extend past Sept 30.
- b. Land clearing permits apply to piles of natural vegetation over 3X3X2 feet but no larger than 25x25x15 feet. Only one pile shall be burned at anytime.
- c. Land clearing burning is not permitted within 100 feet of standing timber, 100 feet from any structure, 150 feet from any wood shacked roof and shall be a minimum of 500 feet from any forest slash.
- d. To obtain a land clearing permit:
 - Please call East Jefferson Fire Rescue Administration at
 - 360-385-2626 Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM to schedule an inspection of the burn site.
 - All inspections must be scheduled three (3) business days in advance.
 - Permits will be issued for 30 days at a cost of \$100.00 with site specific regulations.
 - A new permit will be required for burning beyond the first thirty (30) day limit.
 - See Appendix A (Burn Permit Application)
 - **East Jefferson Fire Rescue must be notified at the start of every burn**
Please call 360-381-0491 with your permit number and owner's name and size of burn pile.
- e. Burn piles up to 15x15 feet require:
 - A tractor with loader or excavator on site.
 - On site water acceptable to the inspecting officer
 - Charged garden hose that will reach around the fire, or
 - A truck/trailer/hydrant with a minimum 300 gallons of water with a hose that will reach around the fire.
- f. burn piles over **15x15 feet up to 25x25** feet will require an excavator and a water truck/trailer/hydrant with a minimum 300 gallons with a hose that will reach around the fire.
- g. **Attendance:** A minimum of one (1) reasonable person shall remain in attendance while the fire is burning at all times (fire watch). The fire will not be left unattended until it is extinguished and cold to touch. Your equipment operator may be this person.
- h. Provide, at a minimum, two (2) shovels that can be used to extinguish flying brands. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher
- i. At least one fan, rated and operable at 6,000 cfm, shall be on site to facilitate clean burning.
- j. Burning is allowed from 8 AM to 4 PM. **Do not add any fuel to fire after 3 PM.**

- k. The permit may be canceled and/or the fire extinguished by East Jefferson Fire Rescue or other fire suppression agency when deemed to be a nuisance and/or necessary for the protection of life or property, pursuant to RCW 52.12.104.
- l. Multiple violations may result in the rejection of future permit applications
- m. The permit holder agrees to furnish sufficient personnel and equipment at his/her expense to suppress the fire if it escapes for any reason.
- n. The permit holder and or the property owner assumes responsibilities for damage to any structure, utility line/pole, tree/shrub, fence, and road/right-of-way or other public/private edifice by smoke, flying ash or flame, and accepts responsibility for any claimed adverse effects to the health of any person or persons in the path of said smoke/flying ash.
- o. The permit holder agrees to reimburse East Jefferson Fire Rescue, or other approved fire fighting agencies, for all reasonable expenses incurred in such suppression, pursuant to RCW 52.12.108

2.3 Prohibited open burning. Open burning shall be prohibited when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous.

2.4 Exception: Prescribed burning for the purpose of reducing the impact of wildland fire when authorized by the fire code official.

2.5 Where prohibited. A person shall not take or utilize an open flame or light in a structure, vessel, boat or other place where highly flammable, combustible or explosive material is utilized or stored. Lighting appliances shall be well-secured in a glass globe and wire mesh cage or a similar approved device.

SECTION 3.0 PROHIBITED OUTDOOR FIRES

It shall be **unlawful** for any person to cause or allow any outdoor fire that contains any of the following; Household garbage or trash (including paper and cardboard), Dead animals, Asphalt, Petroleum products, Paints, Rubber products, Plastics, Treated wood, Construction/demolition debris, Metal and/or Any other substance, which normally emits dense smoke or noxious odors when burned.

- a. No outdoor fire may be ignited in a geographical area where:
 - 1. Ecology has declared an air pollution episode; (RCW [70.94.775\(2\)](#) and [70.94.780](#))
 - 2. Ecology or a local air authority has declared impaired air quality; or (RCW [70.94.775\(2\)](#) and [70.94.780](#))
 - 3. The appropriate fire protection authority has declared a fire danger burn ban, unless that authority grants an exception.
- b. The person responsible for the fire must contact the permitting agency and/or any other designated source for information on the burning conditions for each day.
- c. The person responsible for an outdoor fire must extinguish the fire when an air pollution episode, impaired air quality condition, or fire danger burn ban that applies to the burning, is declared. In this regard:
 - 1. Smoke visible from all types of outdoor burning, except land clearing burning, after a time period of three hours has elapsed from the time an air pollution episode, impaired air quality condition, or fire danger burn ban is declared, will constitute prima facie evidence of unlawful outdoor burning.
 - 2. Smoke visible from land clearing burning after a time period of eight hours has elapsed from the time an air pollution episode, impaired air quality condition, or fire danger burn ban is declared, will constitute prima facie evidence of unlawful outdoor burning.

SECTION 4.0 PENALTIES

Penalties may be assessed for violations of these rules. In addition, East Jefferson Fire Rescue or other fire suppression agency may recover costs incurred during response, control, or extinguishment of an unlawful or out-of-control fire.

SECTION 5.0 AUTHORIZATION

5.1 Where required by state or local law or regulations, open burning shall only be permitted with prior approval from the state or local air and water quality management authority, provided that all conditions specified in the authorization are followed.

5.2 Where open burning creates or adds to a hazardous situation, or a required permit for open burning has not been obtained, the fire code official is authorized to order the extinguishment of the open burning operation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 6/20/19

REPLACES: FPV 904, SOG 4007a (2018)

FIRE CHIEF:



EAST JEFFERSON FIRE RESCUE

Jim Walkowski
(360) 385-2626

Chief
jwalkowski@ejfr.org

24 Seton Rd., Port Townsend, WA 98368

Burn Permit Application Daylight Hours Only

Commercial Application - \$100.00
Is your property in a location where burning is still allowed?

Payment Received: CK#

BRN#

Applicant Name/Address/Phone	Property Owner Name/Address/Phone
Phone:	Phone:

You must have property owner's permission to burn if not your property

Burn Site Address:	Parcel Number:
Parcel number can be obtained through the Jefferson County Assessor's Office – Call 360-385-9105	

Permit Validation Dates thru

- Pile size may not exceed 25' X 25' with a 25' fire break.
- Pile size 25' x 25' shall have an excavator and a water truck/trailer/hydrant with a minimum 300 gallons of water, and a hose that will reach around the fire.
- Pile size may not exceed 15' X 15' with a 15' fire break.
- Pile size 15' X 15' shall have a tractor with loader or excavator and a charged garden hose or water truck/trailer/hydrant with a minimum of 300 gallons of water, and a hose that will reach around the fire.
- Special Conditions: _____

**CALL 360-381-0491 ON DAY OF BURN
THIS PERMIT IS ONLY VALID BETWEEN THE DATES NOTED ABOVE.**

I have read the SOG's and agree to abide by all guidelines.

Applicant Signature

Date

Inspector:

Date: