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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Back Yard, Construction or Agricultural Debris Burning Is a Permit Required?**

The Oregon Department of Forestry and Crook County Fire and Rescue want to keep your burning safe and legal.

Prineville and Crook County residents can always take their yard debris to the landfill; however, some residents choose to burn. If a resident does decide to burn their yard debris or use a burn barrel to burn paper trash there are a few simple steps that must be taken.

### **If you live within Prineville's city limits and choose to burn:**

Residents will be able to burn in a barrel from 7:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon only, Wednesday through Saturday per the City of Prineville Burn Barrel Ordinance No. 1108. Residents can purchase an annual permit, January through December, at City Hall 447-5627 – 400 NE Third St, Prineville. The annual fee is \$25.00.

Residents burning a debris pile need a copy of Crook County Fire & Rescue's Burn Regulations. This is restricted to daylight hours and closed during restricted months as listed in the Regulations. The City of Prineville is currently reviewing the inclusion of debris piles into the City's burn barrel ordinance.

### **If you live outside the city limits but within Crook County Fire & Rescue district:**

Residents need a copy of Crook County Fire & Rescue's Burn Regulations for both burn barrels and debris piles. Burning is limited to daylight hours; however, you can burn seven days a week. Aside from daylight hours, burning is not restricted until June 30<sup>th</sup>; after July 1 residents may only burn in a burn barrel until noon and may not burn a pile of debris until October.

Residents can acquire a copy of the burn regulations at Crook County Fire & Rescue 500 NE Belknap, Prineville, or online at [www.crookcountyfireandrescue.com](http://www.crookcountyfireandrescue.com).

Residents can call the Crook County Fire & Rescue burn line for daily burn requirements at 447-2876.

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**If you live outside the Crook County Fire & Rescue district but within the Oregon Department of Forestry protection district:**

Burn permits are required year-round for these residents.

A burn permit from the Oregon Department of Forestry is required for at all times of the year for open burning on forest lands which are not within a rural or municipal fire district. Generally, the department of forestry will not issue a permit for open burning during fire season.

An Oregon Department of Forestry permit is also required for all burning of logging or thinning slash at all times, regardless of location.

You can acquire these permits from your local Oregon Department of Forestry office 447-5658 – 3501 E Third Street, Prineville.

**Burning for construction or commercial purposes:**

Commercial / construction burns are not allowed within three miles of the city limits and will require a Department of Environmental Quality permit. Please call the Bend Department of Environmental Quality office at 388-6146 for information.

**Agricultural burning:**

Please contact Crook County Fire & Rescue for information on Agricultural Burns at 447-5011 or visit them at 500 NE Belknap. When you call or come in make sure you have a copy of the burn regulations and be prepared to give the legal description, acreage, contact numbers for people on site, and fire suppression equipment.

**Burn Barrel Requirements:**

- ✓ A permit is required for all open burning within the city and county, and within Oregon Department of Forestry protection.
- ✓ Place the barrel 25 feet from any structures or property lines.
- ✓ Create a 10 foot buffer space, either green grass or down to mineral soil, around the barrel.
- ✓ It is strongly suggested to have vent holes at the bottom of the burn barrel; cover the holes using not less than 14 gauge wire, with holes not larger than ¼ inch.
- ✓ Above the vent holes at the bottom of the barrel, punch in holes and put steel rods or pipes through the barrel; this will hold burning material up and give a clean fast burn.
- ✓ It is required to have a mesh screen on top of the barrel; not less than 14 gauge wire with holes not larger than ¼ inch.
- ✓ Occupy the burn barrel at all times.

Burning of garbage, animals, diapers, plastics, rubber, petroleum / petroleum treated materials, any material that creates dense smoke or noxious odors is not allowed in a burn barrel or burn pile.

**Debris Burn Pile Requirements:**

- ✓ A permit is required for all open burning within the city and county, and within Oregon Department of Forestry protection.
- ✓ A 50 foot clearance from the burn pile to any structure is required.
- ✓ Create a 10 foot buffer space, either green grass or down to mineral soil, around the pile.
- ✓ Occupy the pile at all times.
- ✓ Burning is not allowed during the summer months.

Burning of garbage, animals, diapers, plastics, rubber, petroleum / petroleum treated materials, any material that creates dense smoke or noxious odors is not allowed in a burn barrel or burn pile.

**It is against the law:**

It is against the law to conduct any burning that:

- Unreasonably interferes with the enjoyment of life of property of you or your neighbor.
- Creates a public or private nuisance.
- Is hazard to public safety?

By law the resident / landowner is responsible for losing control of any fire. Please be responsible; contact your local fire department, the city of Prineville, or your local Oregon Department of Forestry office for a burning permit before striking that match.

**Contact Information:**

Crook County Fire & Rescue	447-5011	500 N Belknap, Prineville
Prineville City Hall	447-5617	400 E Third Street, Prineville
Oregon Department of Forestry	447-5658	3501 E Third Street, Prineville

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