



Olympic Regional Clean Air Agency's (ORCAA) Rule Change Briefing



**Prepared for Olympia City Council
April 11, 2023**

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Agenda

- What is ORCAA?
- What rule change has been made?
- What is a recreational fire?
- Equity and Impacts
- Safety
- Resources



What is ORCAA?

- **History-** A half century ago, a small local government agency emerged to protect air quality in the counties of the Olympic Peninsula. The passage of the Washington State Clean Air Act in 1967 set the stage for six counties — Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Pacific, and Thurston — to join together to form the Olympic Air Pollution Control Authority (OAPCA), later renamed Olympic Region Clean Air Agency (ORCAA) which formally launched in 1968.
- **Governing Board-** ORCAA is comprised of nine board members from six counties in ORCAA's jurisdiction, plus representatives from the three largest cities (Olympia, Lacey and Tumwater). Jim Cooper, City of Olympia's council member serves as the chair.
- **Purpose-** ORCAA was created to support the Washington State Clean Air Act of 1967 to help maintain air quality, protect human health, prevent injury to plant and animal life and property, promote economic and social development of the state and facilitate the enjoyment of natural attractions of the state.



What rule change has been made?

What has changed?

The board voted in February of this year to lift the long standing recreational fire burn ban and adopt revisions to rules 6.27c and 6.2.8. This removes the blanket ban on recreational burning in Olympia, Lacey, and Tumwater. This makes the rules within these cities consistent with the rules in all other cities within ORCAA's jurisdiction.

Why?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements for ambient monitoring recognize that Thurston county has shown compliance with all national ambient air quality standards including the particulate matter standards for more than two decades.



What is a recreational fire?

What is considered a legal outdoor recreational burning?

Recreational fires must be small with a maximum of three feet diameter and three feet high. Must use dry seasoned firewood or charcoal. Burning the following is prohibited: garbage, yard waste such as leaves, clippings, and prunings.

Equity and Impacts

- **Who will benefit and who may be burdened?**

Those who will **benefit** from this policy change include people who wish to have a small recreational fire in their yard. The Houseless population will also be beneficiaries with the ability to legally cook while not violating a recreational burn ban. This will also leave our Fire Departments available for priority calls-by reducing responses to these types of fires. Those who may be **burdened** include people who have medical issues, such as asthma.

- **What is the process to mitigate these burdens?**

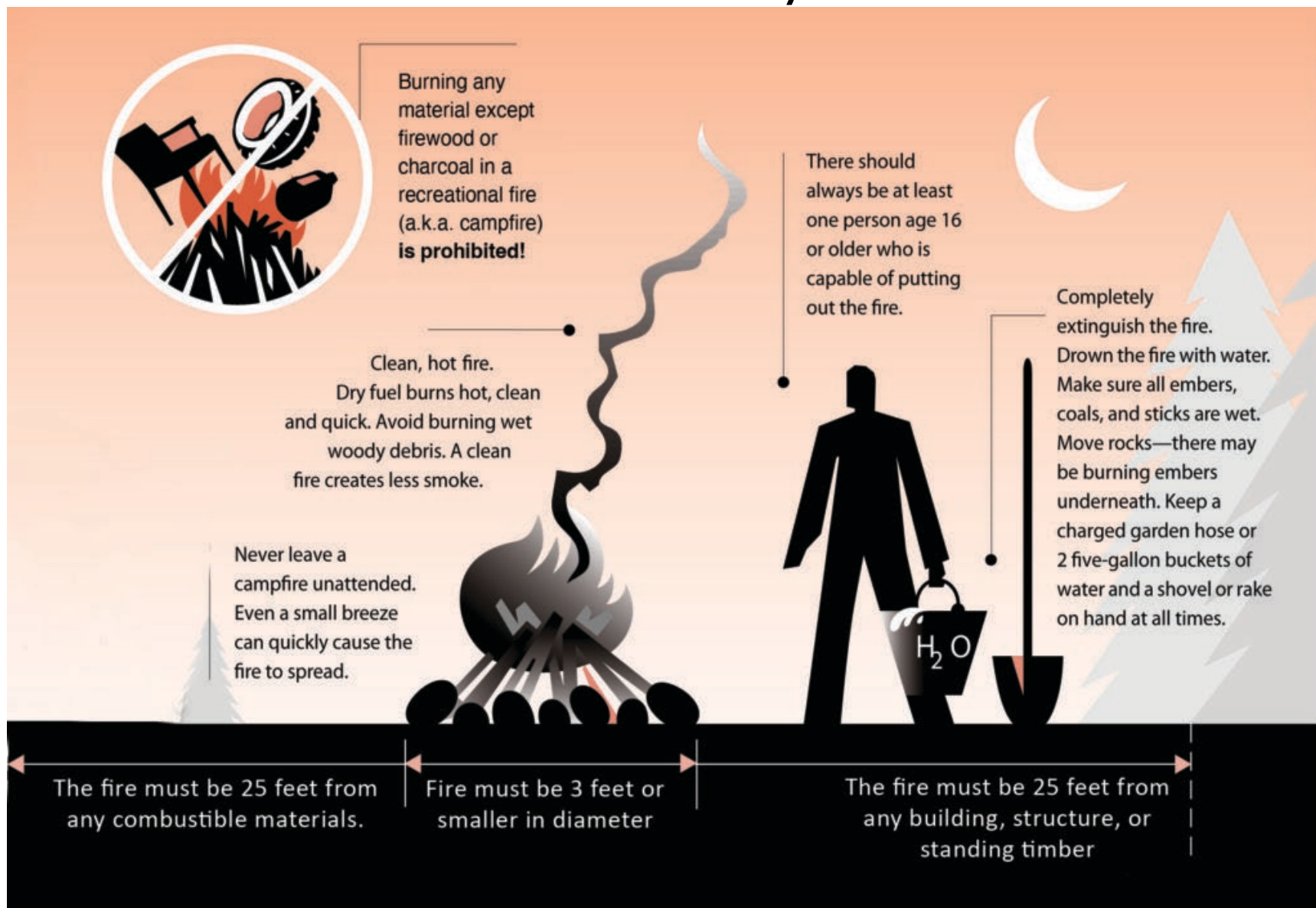
Following the rules and regulations set by ORCAA.

Following burn bans.

- **Does this rule change affect burn bans?**

No. When burn bans are in effect, you must comply.

Safety



Burning any material except firewood or charcoal in a recreational fire (a.k.a. campfire) is prohibited!

Clean, hot fire. Dry fuel burns hot, clean and quick. Avoid burning wet woody debris. A clean fire creates less smoke.

Never leave a campfire unattended. Even a small breeze can quickly cause the fire to spread.

There should always be at least one person age 16 or older who is capable of putting out the fire.

Completely extinguish the fire. Drown the fire with water. Make sure all embers, coals, and sticks are wet. Move rocks—there may be burning embers underneath. Keep a charged garden hose or 2 five-gallon buckets of water and a shovel or rake on hand at all times.

The fire must be 25 feet from any combustible materials.

Fire must be 3 feet or smaller in diameter

The fire must be 25 feet from any building, structure, or standing timber



Resources

<https://www.orcaa.org/>



Thank You

Questions?