

Rule Changes to Affect Lake Stevens Fire

Article by BC Putnam



Land Clearing Burns Prohibited July 1st

Beginning July 1, 2008, land clearing burning will be prohibited in all of Snohomish County. In the past, citizens could burn if we issued them a permit. The July 1, 2008 PSCAA rule change eliminates our ability to issue Land Clearing permits.

An impact analysis paper written by PSCAA states PSCAA has the ability to prohibit residential and land-clearing burning under RCW 70.94.743 when a “reasonable alternative exists” that is “less harmful to the environment”. A reasonable alternative for burning must include an available and reasonably economical alternative to burning. Alternatives include:

1. A service for recycling the organic refuse; or
2. Any other method for disposing of the refuse (chipping, solid waste dump box, landfill, etc.) that is located within a reasonable distance and will accept it at a reasonable cost. (PSCAA defines reasonable distance as located within 30 miles or 60 minutes)

Sites identified by PSCAA as alternatives (3y³ is equivalent to one ton of organic waste) include:

Cedar Grove Composting – Everett	\$ 42.00 ton
Dubuque Road Drop Box	\$ 13.71 y ³
Gold Bar Drop Box	\$ 13.71 y ³
Granite Falls Drop Box	\$ 13.71 y ³
Pacific Topsoils – Everett	\$ 13.25 y ³
Riverside Topsoils	\$ 12.50 y ³
County Transfer Stations	\$ 89.00 ton

Residential Burning

The PSCAA has made the recommendation to prohibit residential burning “as soon as practical”. In the impact analysis they state:

“We recommend prohibiting residential burning in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties as soon as practical, which we have determined is June 30, 2010. This date is different than that proposed for land-clearing burning because of the need for extensive public outreach with residents of the affected area to effectively implement the proposal”.

According to the PSCAA, residential burning is defined as “the outdoor burning of leaves, clippings, prunings, and other yard and gardening refuse originating on lands immediately adjacent and in close proximity to a human dwelling”.

For specific details, read the impact analysis at:

<http://www.pscleanair.org/actions/outdoorfires/809%20Impact%20Analysis.pdf>