

Residential Burning:

Outdoor burning is a leading cause of wildfires in WA State. Every year, escaped burn piles start fires that threaten homes and wildlands in San Juan County. Following burn regulations protects your property, your neighbors, and our firefighters. WA State encourages you to reduce burning to the greatest extent possible on your property due the danger of wildfire. This is why Orcas Highlands HOA offers the Spring and Fall Clean up.

Before you light the Fire:

Consider Alternatives

- [Composting, mulching, chipping, natural decomposition, etc. are recommended alternatives to burning.](#)
- [Rain Shadow Chipping Program:](#)
 - Free: Rain Shadow has a facility next to the Exchange for chipping wood. You can take your **“Clean Woody Debris”** between 8 & 5 Monday through Saturday. They will take it for free and chip it. Contact [Rain Shadow](#) for more information.
 - For a nominal fee, [Rain Shadow](#) will pick up your fallen wood and trimmings at your home for chipping. Contact Rain Shadow for more information.

RULES: If you must burn,

Please keep it to a minimum and follow the Rules:

- You are required to obtain a permit from [San Juan County Fire Marshal's Office](#)
- Know and follow all permit rules
- **There are no Commercial burns** allowed on Orcas Highlands lots or HOA land except by special permission from the board.
- **Know the Current Burn Status:** The burn status tells you when outdoor burning is allowed. For updates, contact the San Juan County Fire Marshal at (360) 378-3473.
 - **Open** — Permitted and recreational fires allowed
 - **Closed** — No permitted burns; recreational fires may still be allowed
 - **Burn Ban** — No outdoor burning of any kind
 - **Fireworks are banned throughout San Juan County year-round.**
- Permit required for burning yard debris and brush piles. No construction materials, trash and especially **NO** plastics, chemicals or chemically treated materials.
- Ensure you follow specific requirements for pile size and suppression equipment.
- Have proper suppression equipment on-site
- Be courteous with [fire smoke](#). Controlling the smoke is regulated by [State Law](#) and must not affect your neighbors. You must be in attendance and able to put the fire out at all times.

- Control fire until it's completely out
- Burn permits are only issued from October 1 through May 30, depending on weather conditions.

If your fire escapes, you may be liable for suppression costs — regardless of whether you're the permit holder or property owner. The person attending the burn is responsible.

Learn More

The San Juan County Fire Marshal is the authority for burn permits and regulations:

- [Open Burn Information](#) — Complete rules and requirements
- [Fire Marshal Office](#) — Contact for questions

Contact the San Juan County Fire Marshal at (360) 378-3473 for:

- [Inspection requests](#)

Emergency situations: Call 911