

PRESS RELEASE

October 7, 2003

**MASON COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
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SHELTON, WA 98584
(360) 427-9670 EXT. 263**

TO: KMAS, KRXY, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE OLYMPIAN, SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE SUN

RE: County Wide Burn Ban

COUNTY-WIDE BURN BAN TO BE LIFTED

Steve Swarthout, Mason County Fire Marshal, in conjunction with DNR, Kitsap, King, and Pierce Counties, has announced the lifting of the burn ban in Mason County effective 0800 Monday October 13th, 2003.

The fire danger has been reduced enough to allow open burning to occur. "The lifting of the burn ban", says Swarthout, "is also a good time to remind Mason County residents and property owners of the various regulations that apply to open burning."

OPEN BURNING RULES FOR UNINCORPORATED MASON COUNTY

Land-clearing fires, used for the disposal of trees, stumps, shrubbery, or other natural vegetation from on site land clearing projects, are allowed in unincorporated Mason County. A written permit from the Mason County Fire Marshal is required. In areas designated as Smoke Management Zones, only residential yard debris fires (no larger than 4 X 4) and recreational fires are allowed. Written permits are not required for residential yard debris and recreational fires.

Call 360-427-7799 for permit information and information on Smoke Management Zone locations.

OPEN BURNING RULES FOR CITY OF SHELTON URBAN GROWTH AREA

Only recreational fires are allowed in the Shelton Urban Growth Area. Land clearing fires and residential yard debris fires are prohibited. By definition, a recreational fire is a cooking fire or campfire, using charcoal or firewood that occurs in designated areas or on private property for cooking, pleasure, or ceremonial purposes. Fires used for debris disposal purposes are not considered recreational fires.

Charcoal and gas barbecue appliances are also allowed in Urban Growth Areas.

The **burning of garbage** and use of **burn barrels is illegal** throughout the state for any outdoor fire.

Question about open burning within the Shelton Urban Growth Area can be directed to the City of Shelton Fire Marshal at 360-432-5170.

Unincorporated Mason County residents can contact the Mason County Fire Marshal Information Line at 360-427-7799.

Ron Henrickson, Mason County Administrator