

Southwest Clean Air Agency

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(360) 574-3058 • Fax: (360) 576-0925
www.swcleanair.org

September 6, 2006

Mari Ripp – City Clerk
City of Woodland
P.O. Box 9
Woodland, WA 98674

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2006

Dear Ms. Ripp,

CITY OF WOODLAND

First of all, thank you for your continued effort and support in educating citizens about burning safely and responsibly. We appreciate your assistance in preserving our region's air quality.

As you may have already heard, the State of Washington, under WAC173-425, is requiring all urban growth areas (UGAs) to become **no burn areas as of January 1, 2007**. In Cowlitz County this 2007 burn ban affects the cities and UGAs of Woodland and Castle Rock. Similar to the Longview/Kelso 2001 burn ban, the only type of burning that will be allowed inside the urban growth areas will be a small recreational fire no larger than 3'x3'x2' with restrictions as described in the enclosed brochure. The Longview/Kelso No Burn Area will remain the same.

Also effective on January 1, 2007 land clearing burning will be prohibited in all areas with a population density of 1,000 persons per square mile or more.

The Southwest Clean Air Agency will be using various methods of public outreach including news releases, public service announcements and fliers, and possibly direct mailings to name a few. We are already in contact with the local fire districts and County Commissioners to help communicate the January 1, 2007 burn bans. SWCAA will be responsible for the enforcement of the 2007 burn bans and can be contacted at 1-800-633-0709.

In an effort to make information more readily available to residents of the affected areas, we are enclosing some updated brochures and maps as applicable to your area. The brochures detail what the requirements and restrictions are for the various types of outdoor burning and the maps present a detailed look at the January 1, 2007 No Burn Areas. We hope these materials prove helpful to you and those residing within your city and urban growth areas. If you would like more copies of either of these materials I would be more than happy to send you as many as you may need.

If you have any questions about these changes, feel free to contact either me, Jackie Brown, ext. 15, or Brian Fallon, ext. 38, and we will be happy to assist you in any way possible.

Thanks for your help and contributions to keeping our region's air clean.

Most sincerely,

Kathy Finkle
Public Information Specialist
Southwest Clean Air Agency
kathy@swcleanair.org
1-800-633-0709, ext. 39

COWLITZ COUNTY BURN RULES

WAC 173-425 bans the use of a **burn barrel** and prohibits the burning of **all material**, except natural vegetation grown on the property and firewood (defined as bare, untreated wood, not dimensional lumber). This regulation also prohibits burning during periods of impaired air quality and prohibits outdoor burning from becoming a nuisance to surrounding neighbors and businesses. Fire safety burn-bans may also be called by county or local fire protection authorities.

Burn Barrel Use Prohibited

The use of a **burn barrel** was **banned** in the State of Washington effective April 13, 2000. **Burning garbage** has been illegal in the State of Washington since 1967.

Recreational fires

Recreational fires under 3'x3'x2' are still allowed in all of Cowlitz County without a permit. Only charcoal or seasoned firewood (no lumber) may be used as fuel for a recreational fire. Recreational fires must be used solely for recreational purposes and may not be used for disposal of yard debris or any other material. Recreational fires may not cause a smoke or odor nuisance to surrounding properties and are subject to burn bans. Recreational fires larger than 3'x3'x2' inside no burn areas need a written permit from the Southwest Clean Air Agency (SWCAA).

Residential Burning (Outside the no burn areas)

As of **January 1, 2007 residential burning will no longer be allowed in the urban growth areas of Castle Rock and Woodland.** Residential burning is already banned within the Longview/Kelso No Burn Area. Outside of these areas, single piles under 4'x4'x3' do not need a permit to burn during daylight hours (natural vegetation only). For a list of general requirements or to determine if you are outside of the no burn areas, call SWCAA at 1-800-633-0709.

Piles larger than 4'x4'x3' but smaller than 10'x10'x6' outside the no burn areas need a written permit. These free permits can be picked up at local fire stations, downloaded from our website at www.swcleanair.org or mailed to you by calling SWCAA at 1-800-633-0709.

Land Clearing Burning (Outside the no burn areas)

Prior to **January 1, 2007, land clearing burning is only allowed outside the Longview/Kelso no burn area. As of January 1, 2007 land clearing burning will be banned within the urban growth areas of Castle Rock and Woodland, and all other high density areas.**

Outside the no burn areas, burn piles larger than 10'x10'x6' require a land clearing burn permit from SWCAA. The burn permit application can be printed from our website at www.swcleanair.org and then mailed, faxed or hand-delivered to SWCAA. A site visit is no longer required so a permit can be issued same day with a visit to SWCAA's office in Vancouver. The permit fee of \$100 must be paid to SWCAA prior to issuance of the permit.

Agricultural Burning

To qualify for agricultural burning inside the no-burn boundaries you must have filed a Schedule F with your federal income tax. Orchard prunings alone do not qualify for an agricultural burn and other restrictions apply (WAC 173-430). Call SWCAA for detailed information, forms and possible fees.

Areas Where Burning Is Not Allowed

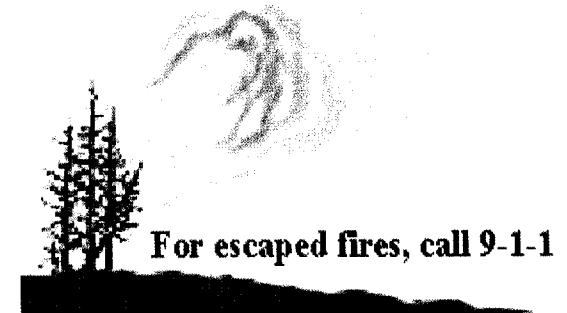
WAC 173-425 prohibits outdoor burning in cities with a population of greater than 10,000 and their Urban Growth Areas. Prohibitions also apply to adjacent areas with a population density of one thousand or more persons per square mile and areas with a reasonable alternative to burning. **As of January 1, 2007 urban growth areas for incorporated cities with populations < 5,000 also become no burn areas.**

Burning was permanently banned, with the exception of recreational fires under 3'x3'x2', within the Expanded No Burn Area of Longview/Kelso on January 1, 2001.

As of January 1, 2007 Castle Rock, Woodland and their surrounding urban growth areas will become no burn areas with the exception of recreational fires under 3'x3'x2' (no lumber, yard debris or garbage). Land clearing burning will be prohibited in all areas of the state with a population density of >1,000 people per square mile as of January 1, 2007. For more information, call SWCAA at 1-800-633-0709.

Silvicultural Burning

For all silvicultural/forest practice burning call the Pacific Cascades Region of the Department of Natural Resources at 360-577-2025. There is a permit fee.



For escaped fires, call 9-1-1

Alternatives to outdoor burning:
Composting, chipping and recycling are viable alternatives to outdoor burning that create a resource instead of air pollution and solid waste problems.

Composting is an easy and inexpensive way to turn yard and garden refuse into a usable and valuable product. Compost turns organic matter like leaves, grass, weeds, and wood chips, into a rich soil conditioner.



Chipping brush, prunings, land-clearing debris and wood waste makes an excellent mulch or substitute for decorative bark. Chips can protect soil and help keep weeds at bay. They can also be used to line garden paths and trails or provide a softer landing under playground equipment.



Recycling/Reuse. Many options are available in our area for wood and building scraps, pallets, cardboard and other paper products, and even some types of plastic. Contact the Department of Solid Waste/Recycling 360-577-3361 or the State Recycling Hotline at 1-800-732-9253 for options in your area.

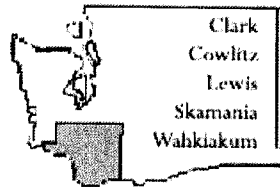


Transfer Station/Landfill. The Cowlitz County landfill will accept organic waste for a reasonable fee. Call (360) 577-3126 for more information.

SWCAA PROGRAMS & SERVICES

SWCAA offers information and assistance to individuals, homeowners and businesses in the following areas:

- Public Information & Education**
- Complaint Response & Enforcement**
- Outdoor Burning**
- Wood Stoves**
- Asbestos**
- Business Assistance**
- Air Operating Permits**
- New Source Permitting**



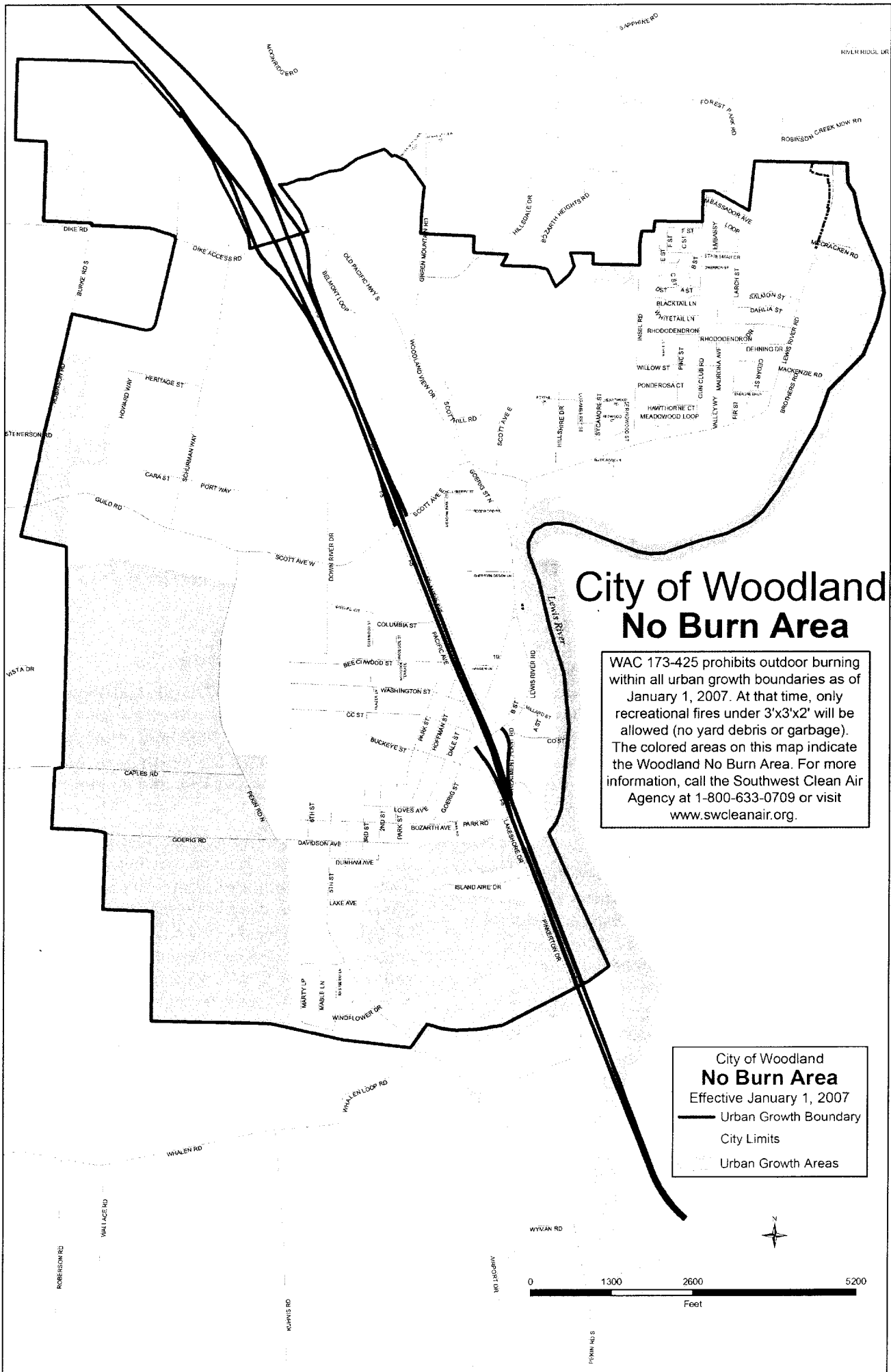
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SOUTHWEST CLEAN AIR AGENCY

Outdoor Burning Information for Cowlitz County



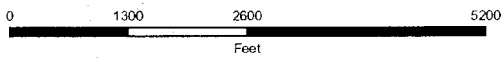


City of Woodland No Burn Area

WAC 173-425 prohibits outdoor burning within all urban growth boundaries as of January 1, 2007. At that time, only recreational fires under 3'x3'x2' will be allowed (no yard debris or garbage). The colored areas on this map indicate the Woodland No Burn Area. For more information, call the Southwest Clean Air Agency at 1-800-633-0709 or visit www.swcleanair.org.

City of Woodland
No Burn Area
 Effective January 1, 2007

- Urban Growth Boundary
- City Limits
- Urban Growth Areas



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Alternatives to Burning

Chipping and composting are some of the methods the Southwest Clean Air Agency recommends for managing yard debris disposal. Mulched yard debris can be used on site to help plants retain water during dry weather and can help keep weeds under control. As always, residents are encouraged to help develop new and innovative ways to reduce, reuse and recycle household and yard debris. The Cowlitz County landfill will also accept organic waste for a reasonable fee. Call 360-577-3126 for more information.