The Pierce County Fire Marshal has declared a <u>county-wide burn ban</u> effective 8 a.m., Monday, June 22, until further notice. Dry weather and forecasts calling for continued dry heat prompted the limited ban, issued jointly with the Pierce County Fire Chiefs' Association; King, Kitsap, Snohomish, and Mason counties; and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The indefinite ban applies to all outdoor burning except for small recreational fires in established fire pits at approved campgrounds or private property with the owner's permission. The use of gas and propane self-contained stoves and grills will continue to be allowed under the ban. Those with DNR burn permits are advised to call 1-800-323-BURN for more information.

A small recreational fire must meet the following conditions:

- The fire is in a metal or concrete pit, and not used to dispose of debris.
- The fire is no bigger than 3 feet across.
- The pit is 10 feet away from vegetation, 25 feet from any structures and 20 feet below any branches.
- Someone is watching the fire at all times with supplies to put it out. There must be a garden hose or at least 10 gallons of water.
- Winds are 5 miles per hour or less.