

# WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 5

## FIRE PERMIT - RULES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### RESIDENTIAL / RECREATIONAL / LAND CLEARING

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**THE DISTRICT MAY REVOKE ANY PERMIT ISSUED AT ITS SOLE DISCRETION AS NECESSARY TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY**

The permit holder shall comply with the terms and conditions of the permit at all times and shall maintain a responsible person in charge of the fire at all times. The responsible person shall maintain the fire under control, not permit it to spread to other properties or structures and extinguish the fire when the authorized burning is completed or when directed by fire district personnel. The possession of a permit shall not relieve the permit holder from liability for damages resulting from the fire for which the permit holder may otherwise be liable (RCW 52.12.104).

The violation of or failure to comply with and provision of Chapter 52.12 RCW pertaining to fire permits, or of any term or condition of the permit is a misdemeanor. The permit holder shall be responsible to prevent nuisance of smoke, odor or ash that unreasonably impacts neighboring properties.

If a person starts a fire without a permit or if a permit holder fails to comply with any provision of Chapter 52.12 RCW pertaining to fire permits, or of any term of condition of the permit, and as a result of that failure the District is required to suppress a fire, the person or permit holder is liable to the District to reimburse it for the cost of its fire suppression services (RCW 52.12.108).

**PROHIBITED MATERIALS:** Garbage, dead animals, asphalt, petroleum products, paints, rubber products, plastics, paper (other than necessary to start a fire), cardboard, treated wood, construction/demolition debris, metal, or any substance that normally releases toxic emissions, dense smoke, or obnoxious odors when burned. (WAC 173-425-050(1)).

**OUTDOOR BURNING:** It is unlawful for any person to cause or allow outdoor burning that causes an emission of smoke or any other air contaminant that is detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of any person, that causes damage to property or business, or that causes a nuisance (RCW 70A.15.1070, 70A.15.5090), 70A.15.5030 and WAC 173.425.050 (4)).

PROPERTY OWNER: _____
ADDRESS: _____
TELEPHONE: _____
RESPONSIBLE PARTY: _____ (PRINT NAME/ SIGNATURE)
ISSUING DISTRICT MEMBER: Christopher Carleton, Fire Chief (PRINT NAME/ SIGNATURE)

SEE BACK OF DOCUMENT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON BURN TYPES, REGULATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY

2026 PERMIT NUMBER

### **RESIDENTIAL BURNS:**

**CONDITIONS:** Burning is allowed during daylight hours only; the fire must not exceed 5 feet in diameter; a shovel or rake must be on site and water by way of a charged garden hose or a 55-gallon water source with a pump and hose to reach the fire; one person age 16 or older, who is capable of putting the fire out, must be in attendance at all times and have a method to call 911 if needed; only one pile may be burned at a time unless otherwise permitted; it must not be an air stagnation period; all fires must be contained within a firebreak(bare grounds/sand/gravel etc.) equal to the size of the pile; the fire must be 50 feet from any structure, standing timber, or power lines.

### **RECREATIONAL BURNS:**

**CONDITIONS:** The fire must consist of charcoal or firewood and only be used for cooking or pleasure; the diameter of the fire must be no larger than 3 feet and in an enclosure of 16 inches high and made of cement block, stones, or 10- gauge steel; a charged garden hose or two five-gallon buckets of water must be on site along with a shovel or rake; the fire must be 25 feet away from any structure or standing timber; tree branches must be 15 feet above the enclosure; one person 16 years or older, who is capable of putting the fire out, must attend at all times and have a method to call 911 if needed; the fire must be contained within a firebreak (bare ground/sand/gravel etc.)

### **LAND CLEARING BURNS:**

**CONDITIONS:** Maximum size is 25 feet x 25 feet; a fan must be used to start the fire and assist in burning; a shovel and rake must be on site; a 350-gallon water source with a pump and enough 1 1/2 hose to reach the entire fire must be on site; one person age 16 or older, who is capable of putting the fire out, must be in attendance at all times and must have a method to call 911 if needed; it must not be an air stagnation period; burning is allowed for a period of 24 hours- if longer than 24 hours is needed additional permission must be received by the district and may be denied by the sole discretion of the district until further notice; machinery is required when the need exists to move large trees, stumps or other debris OR when feeding the pile from a secondary source.