MOLALLA FIRE DISTRICT #73

FIRE PERMIT

PRIOR TO ANY BURNING CALL (503)829-2217

*****Projected Burn dates are March 1st through June 15th and October 15th through December 15th. These are subject to change due to weather conditions*****

No burning is allowed outside of these projected burn dates. Please call the burn advisory line.

During the projected fire season (July 15th through October 14th) Molalla Fire District has the **authority to prohibit agricultural burning** when there is a bona fide fire danger. If any two factors apply, Molalla Fire District will issue a Fire Danger Burn Ban.
Predicted temperature 85 degrees or higher
Predicted humidity of 25% or less
Predicted winds 10 MPH or higher

Burn piles must not be greater than 10' x 10' and must burn down during normal burn hours. Piles greater than this require special inspections and permits may need to be obtained from DEQ.

What type of burning is allowed within the Fire District?

Within Three (3) miles of the Molalla City Limits or inside the special DEQ control area:

Back Yard Debris
Back Yard burning, including a burn barrel or incinerator, may be conducted with a valid Fire permit. Burning may only be conducted on days approved by DEQ and Molalla Fire District. No piles bigger than 10 x 10 and made up of natural vegetation. Piles must be capable of burning 100% during normal burn hours.

Construction & Demolition
Construction and Demolition Material open burning is **prohibited within 3 miles of the city limits**. OAR 340-264-120

Outside Three (3) miles of the Molalla City Limits or outside of the special control area:

Domestic
Domestic open burning, including a burn barrel or incinerator, with a valid Fire permit. Burning may only be conducted on days approved by DEQ and Molalla Fire District.

GENERAL BURNING PROHIBITIONS:
As per DEQ regulations, the following materials may not be burned at any time: clothing, wet garbage, plastic, wire, insulation, automobile parts, asphalt, petroleum treated materials, rubber products, animal remains or animal or vegetable matter resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking or service of food, or of any other material which normally emits dense smoke or noxious odors.

Rev March 2026 MP

No person shall cause or allow to be initiated or maintained any open burning during hours not authorized by DEQ and/or the local fire jurisdiction.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

Open burning shall not be conducted within 50' of any structure or other combustible material. (2025 OFC 307.4)

Exception 1. Not less than 15' when burning is conducted in an approved burning device.
Exception 2. Not less than 25' when pile size is 3' or less in diameter and 2'or less in height.

A garden hose connected to a reliable water supply, two 2.5-gallon water type fire extinguishers or a water supply sufficient for suppression of the fire that is being started shall remain on site until the fire is 100% extinguished.

Burning material shall be **constantly attended** by a person knowledgeable in the use of the fire-extinguishing equipment required by Sec 307.5 of the 2025 OFC and be familiar with the permit limitations which restrict open burning. An attendant shall supervise the burning material until the fire has been 100% extinguished.

Molalla Fire District is authorized to require that open burning be immediately discontinued if atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous. (2025 OFC 307.1.1 and 307.3). The offence(s) may be referred to DEQ for further action.

Recreational Fires

Recreational fires shall not be conducted with in 25 feet of a structure or combustible material. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread to within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition. (2025 OFC 307.4.2)

Portable Outdoor Fire Places

Portable outdoor fire places shall be used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and shall not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or combustible materials. (2025 OFC 307.4.3)

During the projected burn ban season (June 15th through October 14th) a special permit will be required for recreational fires. Outside the city limits proper, this permit will be issued by Oregon Department of Forestry. 503-829-2216

The Fire Code official is authorized to order the extinguishment of open burning creates or adds to a hazardous situation or if a required permit has not been obtained (2025 Oregon Fire Code 307.3)

DEFINITIONS: OAR 340-264-0030

Agricultural Waste – any organic material actually generated or used by an agricultural operation (an operation, for profit or raising, harvesting and selling crops, livestock or poultry. This does not include open field burning or the construction and use of dwellings customarily provided in conjunction with the agricultural operation.

Back Yard Debris: Dry material consisting of untreated wood, needles, leaves or plant materials grown on the property where burning is to take place.

Commercial Waste – materials from offices, wholesale or retail yards and outlets, warehouses, restaurants, mobile home parks and dwellings containing more than four family living units.

Construction Waste – any raw wood material actually resulting from or produced by a building or construction project.

Demolition Waste – (also land clearing) – any material actually resulting from or produced by the complete or partial destruction or tearing down of any man-made structure or the clearing of a site for land improvement or cleanup, excluding yard debris (domestic waste) and agricultural waste.

Domestic Waste – paper, cardboard, yard debris, or other material actually generated in or around a dwelling of four or fewer family living units that does not generate a black, foul or noxious smoke or odor and does not fall under the prohibited materials list on the top of this page. NOTE: If the waste is removed from the property of origin, it becomes commercial waste.

Industrial Waste – any material including process waste, produced as the direct result of any manufacturing or industrial process.

Letter Permit – an Air Contaminant Discharge Permit issued by the Department of Environmental Quality.

Local Fire Permit – a permit to burn issued by the governing local fire agency.

Open Burning-Burning in open, outdoor fires, burning in barrels, burning in incinerators that do not meet the emission limitations specified for solid infectious waste in OAR 340-230-0100 or any other burning where combustion air is not effectively controlled and combustion products are not effectively vented through a stack or chimney.
Open Field Burning – the burning of any perennial grass seed field, annual grass seed field or cereal grain field in such a manner that combustion air and combustion products are not effectively controlled.
Slash – forest debris or woody vegetation to be burned under the Oregon Smoke Management Plan administered by Oregon Department of Forestry. The burning of such slash is related to the management of forestland and does not include the burning of any other material created by any land clearing.
Special Control Area: Any area within three miles of a city boundary with a population greater than 1,000 but less than 45,000 or any area within 6 miles of a city boundary with a population of greater than 45,000 people.
Unlawful use of fire/Escaped fire: ORS477.740
A person commits the offense of unlawful use of fire if the person:
(1) In the ignition of a fire:
(a) Unlawfully sets on fire, or causes to be set on fire, any grass, grain, stubble or other material being or growing on any lands within the state;
(b) Intentionally or negligently allows fire to escape from the person's own land, or land of which the person is in possession or control; or
(c) Accidentally sets any fire on the person's own land or the land of another and allows it to escape from control without extinguishing it or making a bona fide effort to do so.
(2) Having knowledge of a fire burning on the person's own land, or land of which the person is in possession or control, fails or neglects to make a bona fide effort to extinguish the same, regardless of whether or not the person is responsible for the starting or existence thereof. [1971 c.743 §307; 1993 c.697 §7; 1997 c.274 §33]

Molalla Fire District has authority to control & extinguish any fire that creates a hazardous condition and investigate the existence of suspected or reported fires that may be hazardous to people, property or environment –2025 OFC 307.3 and 104.11

Molalla Fire District may recover costs associated with suppressing unlawful fire – ORS 478.960 and 478.965

Open burning in compliance with regulations does not exempt any person from civil or criminal liability for consequences or damages resulting from such burning.

Daily Burn Advisory	**503-829-2217**	**Molalla Fire District**	**503-829-2200**
Burn Complaint Line	**888-997-7888**	**Department of Forestry**	**503-829-2216**
Agricultural Burn Line	**503-986-4755**		

Rev March 2026 MP