

RESOLUTION NO. 04-95

WHEREAS, outdoor burning is a hazard from both a fire safety standpoint and a public health nuisance standpoint, and

WHEREAS, outdoor burning is allowed in Mason County, subject to permit, and

WHEREAS, Mason County currently has in place a permit program for outdoor burning, which conforms with the requirements of the **Washington State Clean Air Act (RCW 70.94)**, and

WHEREAS, the Mason County outdoor burning program is managed by the Mason County Fire Marshal, under the authority granted by **Section 11.203 of the 1991 Uniform Fire Code**, and

WHEREAS, fire protection districts in Mason County are legislatively authorized to issue outdoor burning permits and to charge a fee for such activity, under the authority granted by **RCW 52.12.101**, and

WHEREAS, the outdoor burning permits issued by fire protection districts in Mason County shall conform with the minimum **Mason County Guidelines for Outdoor Burning**, and

WHEREAS, it is acknowledged by all parties that a cooperative effort is necessary if the public is to be properly served, and

WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that all parties affected by this resolution must fully understand their respective role, and

WHEREAS, in order to define these respective roles the following resolution has been adopted.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

An outdoor burning program has been established in Mason County as follows:

1. All open fires are permitted either by a **written permit** or under a **general rule burn program**.
2. **Written permits** may be issued by designated Mason County offices or fire protection districts.
3. **Written permits** will only be issued for:
 - a. Land clearing fires (larger than 4' in diameter) consisting of natural vegetation resulting from land clearing projects, and
 - b. Permits will not be issued for the burning of prohibited materials, and
 - c. The duration of a written permit shall not exceed one month, and
 - d. Mason County offices will issue no-fee land clearing open burning permits in those fire districts not issuing their own permits, and
 - e. Land clearing permits can also be issued by those Mason County fire districts that choose to do so. Fire districts are allowed to charge a fee for the issuance of burning permits, and
 - f. **Written permits** will not be required for residential yard debris fires.

4. **Residential yard debris burning**, fires no larger than 4' in diameter and burn barrels, will be allowed under a **general rule burn program**. Under this concept, **property owners will have a total of 14 days during each calendar year to burn residential yard debris**.

a. Property owners can pick the specific 14 days to burn, as long as the total, in any calendar year, does not exceed 14 days.

b. No fees will be charged for residential yard debris burning and a written permit is not required. However, the person in charge of the fire must have a copy of the **Guidelines For Outdoor Fires In Mason County** in hand at the fire location.

c. The brochure---**Guidelines For Outdoor Fires In Mason County**---will be available through County offices and local fire districts and will be mailed to property owners upon request.

5. **Recreational fires**, which are fires not used for yard debris disposal, and **ceremonial fires**, which are fires associated with a Native American ceremony or ritual, will not be directly regulated under the general rule burn program. However, they will be subject to all other applicable open burning regulations, including setbacks, pile size, etc.

THE INTENT OF THIS RESOLUTION IS TO PROVIDE FOR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE CITIZENS OF MASON COUNTY AND TO ASSURE THAT MASON COUNTY IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE WASHINGTON STATE CLEAN AIR ACT.

PASSED THIS 10th **DAY OF** January, 1995.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

M. L. Faughender
M.L. Faughender, Chairperson

William O. Hunter
William O. Hunter, Commissioner

Mary Jo Cady
Mary Jo Cady, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Rebecca S. Rogers
Rebecca S. Rogers, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Michael E. Clift
Michael E. Clift, Chief Deputy Prosecutor

c: Fire Marshal