



Residential Burning

Residential outdoor burning in the designated burn areas of Graham will remain legal for the foreseeable future. This type of burning requires a permit and is done by residents who have sufficient clear property to burn legally. Residential burn permits are issued at no charge by Graham Fire & Rescue.

- Residential Outdoor Burning is prohibited between 9:00 PM on May 15th and 8:00 AM on October 15th annually.
- Residents can burn natural vegetation that comes from their property, such as branches, leaves, clippings, etc.
- The burn pile may not be larger than four (4) feet in diameter and must have a minimum of fifty (50) feet of clearance from all other combustibles, including but not limited to: structures, fences, decks, etc.
- Residents are also responsible for directly attending the fire while flames are visible.
- Violations of these rules are subject to fines from the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency.

Burn permits are limited only to outdoor burning in designated areas. Other areas have PERMANENT outdoor burn bans imposed by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. When any burn ban is OFF and outdoor burning is allowed, it is only allowed in areas of Graham Fire & Rescue's response area that are south or east of the "No Burn Line." This line can be viewed at the Pierce County Map Gallery, or is shown as the solid red line on our [Map of the District](#).

On April 14, 2021, Graham Fire & Rescue superseded Resolution #786 with Resolution #967 to provide definitions for both residential and recreational burns and District burn permitting guidelines. This policy was adopted to reduce the risk of brush fires in our response area during peak dry times. The definition of Residential Burning is listed below.

Definition of Residential Burning

Residential Burning: shall be lawful within the Designated Burning Areas, provided the District has first issued and documented a written permit for this type of and terms and conditions for burning are continuously met, in the discretion of the staff of the Fire District designated by the Fire Chief to enforce Resolution #967:

1. Residential yard waste burning means outdoor burning by a property owner or person authorized by a property owner of leaves, clippings, branches under three inches in diameter, and other natural vegetation materials from the property.
2. Residential burn piles may not be closer than fifty (50) feet to any structure including fences, decks, and tree stands, outbuildings, standing vegetation (fuel package) or other combustible material that may promote fire spread.
3. Residential burn piles may not be larger than four (4) feet in diameter and no higher

than three (3) feet.

4. Only natural vegetation originating on the property may be burned. Natural vegetation means unprocessed plant material from herbs, shrubbery, and trees, including grass, weeds, leaves, clippings, prunings, brush, branches, roots, split stumps, and trunk wood. All other materials are prohibited in residential burn piles.
5. Only paper and/or paper products may be burned in very limited quantities for the sole purpose of igniting a residential burn pile.
6. Residential burning may neither be ignited nor added to between the hours of 9:00 PM. and 8:00 AM daily.
7. A competent person capable of extinguishing the fire must attend it at all times, and the fire must be extinguished before leaving it.
8. Fire extinguishing equipment such as a charged garden hose, 5-gallon container of water, or fire extinguisher rated not less than 4-A shall be immediately available and in close proximity to the fire. Hand tools such as shovels should be available where possible.
9. No residential burning is permitted during burn ban periods.
10. Residential burning shall be immediately discontinued when fire borne emissions are offensive to occupants of surrounding property or otherwise creating a nuisance, or if burning is unreasonably interfering with the enjoyment of life and/or property, or if the fire is determined to constitute a hazard to the health, safety, or welfare of other persons or property.
11. Residential burning must display efficient combustion and may only occur when atmospheric conditions permit smoke and all other products of combustion to rise in a substantially vertical direction.
12. Residential burning shall not be ignited / continued during periods of rainfall where moisture causes incomplete combustion.
13. The fire district will not issue burning permits during an active burn ban period.
14. Residential burning on private property may only be conducted by the property owner, or by persons who reside on property and have written authorization from the property owner to ignite a residential burn.
15. Only one fire pile shall be burned at a time and extinguished before another is ignited.