



Marion County OREGON

For immediate release: February 26, 2009

Contact: Jeff Bickford, senior environmental engineer, (503) 588-5169 ext. 5992

Reminder From Marion County Regarding New Burn Ban Ordinance

With burn season just around the corner, Marion County would like to remind people of the new burn ban ordinance. In an effort to reduce air pollution, the Marion County Board of Commissioners adopted Ordinance No. 1279 in December 2008 which prohibits burning of yard debris within the unincorporated areas of the Salem/Keizer Urban Growth Boundary as well as other specific types of yard debris burning practices throughout the county. A few exclusions and permitted exceptions in the new ordinance are listed below.

Open burning is an inefficient way to dispose of yard debris and other waste, and as a result creates an excess of smoke and pollutants which can cause significant health and environmental hazards.

There are a number of environmentally preferable alternatives to burning yard waste including backyard composting, utilizing curbside yard waste pick-up if available, or dropping it off at either of Marion County's Recycling and Transfer Stations for a reduced fee. Please call Marion County Public Works Environmental Services at (503) 588-5169 or visit their website at www.co.marion.or.us/pw/es for more information on alternatives.

Prohibited activities in the county:

1. Open burning of waste within the unincorporated area of the Salem/Keizer Urban Growth Boundary.
2. Using burn barrels to dispose of yard debris.
3. Open burning of yard debris that creates a nuisance or hazard to public safety.
4. Open burning of yard debris on days designated as non-burning days by ODEQ or local fire districts or departments.
5. Open burning of yard debris that did not come from the owner's property.

Exclusions:

1. Recreational & ceremonial fires not fueled by waste or yard debris.
2. Agricultural open burning by an agricultural operation.
3. The operation of barbeque equipment.

Permitted exceptions during daylight hours (permits are issued by the Marion County Planning Division and are available on their website at www.co.marion.or.us/pw/planning):

1. Open burning of yard debris on property that is more than two acres, or on adjacent properties under the same ownership that total more than two acres.
2. Burning for disease or pest control.
3. Open burning of yard debris classified as specially assessed farm or timber properties.
4. Open burning of yard debris that was created by a natural disaster (must be officially declared).

#