

July 14, 2010

## **King County Fire Marshal calls for Burn Ban**

In concert with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and Pierce, Mason and Snohomish Counties, King County has called a Phase 1 burn ban to take effect at 8 a.m. Thursday, July 15 and will run through Sept. 30. This burn ban applies throughout King County in both the incorporated and unincorporated areas.

Forest and yard debris burning is not allowed under a Phase 1 ban. This burn ban does not apply to federal forests or national parks, although these jurisdictions may have similar restrictions in effect.

This Phase 1 burn ban still allows recreational campfires in approved fire pits. However, campfires and fire pits are allowed only if they are located on private land with the landowner's permission and if built according to the specifications below. These fires must:

- Be built in a metal or concrete fire pit, such as those typically found in designated campgrounds;

- Grow no larger than three feet across;

- Be located in a clear spot free from any vegetation for at least 10 feet in a horizontal direction, including a 20-foot vertical clearance from overhanging branches; and

- Be attended at all times by an alert individual with immediate access to a shovel and either five gallons of water or a connected and charged water hose.

"With local temperatures rising, we have called this burn ban to protect public health and safety during the summer months," King County Fire Marshal Jim Chan said, announcing the burn ban. "This ban will be in effect throughout the summer and will be lifted on Sept. 30."

For more information on local fire restrictions, the public can call the King County Fire Marshal Division at 206-296-6763 or 1-800-323-BURN.