

New ordinance nearly eliminates outdoor burning in Bend city limits

by *Bend_Weekly_News_Sources*

BEND, Ore. -- Thinking about a thorough spring cleanup of your property with a nice fire to burn the debris? Think again. A new city ordinance has almost completely eliminated all circumstances where outdoor burning is allowed within the city limits of Bend, Oregon.

Former city regulations allowed for 20 days within the month of April, and an additional 20 days in November, where outdoor burning was acceptable.

The new ordinance, which takes effect Friday, March 7, only allows for burning on two days in November. Even then, in order to qualify your property must be two acres or larger in size, and you must have a written permit obtained from the fire department.

Those persons failing to comply with fire protection regulations may receive a citation with a fine and court fees of \$327.00 and be responsible for fire suppression costs.

According to Bend Deputy Fire Chief Gary Marshall, campfires, recreational fires, warming fires and cooking fires will continue to be allowed, but only if the person tending the fire has a copy of the regulations in hand. The new regulations for the City can be picked up at any area fire station, or may be printed from the City of Bend web site. Visit www.ci.bend.or.us and click on "Fire & Rescue".

"As an alternative to burning yard debris, Bend Fire and Rescue recommends that residents participate in the nine-day Project Wildfire FireFree Program April 19th - 27th at Knott Land Fill where residents can dispose of small yard debris free of charge," Marshall said. "Bend area garbage companies also offer curbside pickup of yard debris for a minimal charge," he added.

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