

# OUTDOOR DEBRIS BURNING



Burning of backyard piles are the leading culprit of human-caused wildfires. The primary reason for this is a lack of understanding of the conditions when burning takes place. The [Oregon Department of Forestry](#) and its rural fire protection district partners remove much of the guess work by either prohibiting this activity or only allowing it by permit during fire season. However, **over 70 percent of escaped debris burn fires occur during fire season when it is illegal to burn.** Violators are cited and held liable for fire suppression costs that could amount to tens of thousands of dollars, or more. Please act responsibly and do your part to prevent wildfires.

## Burning Safety Tips

- 1) **DO NOT BURN WHEN [FIRE SEASON](#) IS IN EFFECT.**
- 2) Contact your local ODF or rural fire protection district before burning.
- 3) Check the conditions, not the calendar. Fires can spread anytime of year given the right conditions (wind, humidity, temperature, fuels).
- 4) Plan to burn in the late fall and winter when fire risk is at its lowest. Cover piles with polyethylene to maintain dry areas for burning during wet conditions later in the year.



- 5) Clear a 10 foot area around the debris pile to prevent it from escaping.
- 6) Have water and fire tools on site to manage the burn and keep it contained within its footprint.
- 7) Keep debris piles small, feeding from larger piles when burning.
- 8) Stay with the fire until it is **DEAD OUT.**

