

WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 11
Lummi Island Fire Department
3809 Legoe Bay Road * P.O. Box 130 * Lummi Island, WA 98262
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Resolution No. 2026-295

WHEREAS; the Commissioners of Whatcom County Fire District #11 have determined that it is in the best interest of Whatcom County Fire District #11 to adopt revisions to the Outdoor Burning Programs provided by agreement with the Northwest Clean Air Agency in accordance with Chapter 173-425 Washington State Administrative Code

WHEREAS; the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WA DNR) utilizes a Fire Danger Rating System with five levels — LOW, MODERATE, HIGH, VERY HIGH, and EXTREME — based upon fuel moisture readings, fuel moisture recovery, relative humidity, forecasted fire weather, and fuel moisture trending; and

WHEREAS; fuel moisture content is a primary indicator of fire danger, with LOW danger corresponding to fuel moisture between 100% and 30%, MODERATE danger corresponding to fuel moisture between 30% and 10%, and HIGH and above corresponding to fuel moisture below 10%; and

WHEREAS; the Board of Commissioners has determined that outdoor burning regulations should be calibrated to the prevailing fire danger level in order to protect life, property, and natural resources within the District, with permitted burning during LOW and MODERATE fire danger levels subject to specific restrictions, and all outdoor burning prohibited during HIGH, VERY HIGH, and EXTREME fire danger ratings, excepting the use of LPG and/or charcoal for cooking and recreation during HIGH fire danger levels (Whatcom County stage one burn ban);

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners for
Whatcom County Fire Protection District No. 11:

Section 1 – Definitions

“Fire Danger Rating” is declared by the Fire District based upon fuel moisture readings, fuel moisture recovery, relative humidity, forecasted fire weather, and fuel moisture trending.

“Firebreak” means a cleared barrier of bare mineral soil with no flammable material, constructed around the perimeter of the burn pile prior to ignition.

“Maximum Fire Diameter” means the maximum width of the burn pile measured at its widest point.

Section 2 – LOW Fire Danger Conditions (Fuel Moisture 30% – 100%)

Outdoor burning is permitted by permit, subject to all of the following conditions:

- a. Maximum fire size shall not exceed 30 feet by 30 feet in diameter.
- b. A firebreak of not less than 85 feet of bare mineral soil shall be constructed and maintained around the burn pile prior to ignition.
- c. No burning shall occur when sustained wind speed exceeds 10 miles per hour.
- d. No burning shall occur when wind speed from any northeast direction exceeds 5 miles per hour.
- e. The fire shall be fully extinguished — with no heat or smoke throughout the burn area, including below the surface — within three (3) days of ignition.
- f. A person capable of extinguishing the fire must remain in attendance at all times until the fire is fully extinguished.

Section 3 – MODERATE Fire Danger Conditions (Fuel Moisture 10% – 30%)

Outdoor burning is permitted by permit, subject to all of the following conditions:

- a. Maximum fire size shall not exceed 20 feet by 20 feet in diameter.
- b. A firebreak of not less than 85 feet of bare mineral soil shall be constructed and maintained around the burn pile prior to ignition.
- c. No burning shall occur when sustained wind speed exceeds 7 miles per hour.
- d. No burning shall occur under any northeast wind conditions.
- e. The fire shall be fully extinguished — with no heat or smoke throughout the burn area, including below the surface — within one (1) day of ignition.
- f. A person capable of extinguishing the fire must remain in attendance at all times until the fire is fully extinguished.

Section 4 – HIGH, VERY HIGH, and EXTREME Fire Danger (Fuel Moisture Below 10%) – BURN BAN

All outdoor burning is hereby prohibited. No burn permits shall be issued or honored during HIGH, VERY HIGH, or EXTREME fire danger ratings. This constitutes a Burn Ban for Whatcom County Fire District #11.

Section 5 – General Requirements Applicable to All Permitted Burns

The following requirements apply to all outdoor burning conducted under this Resolution:

- a. Burning shall be conducted only on days authorized under Chapter 173-425 WAC and by the Northwest Clean Air Agency (NWCAA).
- b. No burning shall occur during any period when local or state air pollution control authorities have announced an “impaired air” or “air pollution episode.”
- c. Burning of prohibited materials as defined under WAC 173-425-050 is not permitted, including but not limited to rubber, plastics, garbage, treated wood, asphalt, petroleum products, and any material that emits dense smoke or toxic emissions.
- d. The burn site must be attended at all times and completely extinguished before the attendant departs the site.
- e. A valid burn permit must be obtained from the District prior to ignition.
- f. The operator shall contact the fire district prior to ignition.

Section 6 – Supersession

This Resolution supersedes and replaces any prior District resolution or policy governing outdoor burning permit conditions, fire size restrictions, or fire danger-based burn prohibitions.

Section 7 – Effective Date

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the Board of Commissioners of Whatcom County Fire Protection District No. 11.

ADOPTED this 14th day of July, 2026 at the regular monthly meeting of the Whatcom County Fire District #11 Board of Fire Commissioners.

By: Bill Lee
Bill Lee, Commissioner

By: Joan Moye
Joan Moye, Commissioner

By: Dan Ohms
Dan Ohms, Commissioner

Attested: Lisa Lish
Lisa Lish, Board Secretary