



**PUGET SOUND
REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY**
INTERNATIONALLY ACCREDITED FIRE AGENCY
Jim Schneider Fire Chief

*Professionally and
compassionately helping people*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Continued Dry Weather Keeps Fire Danger High

Kent, Wash – July 27, 2017 – With continued temperatures in the high 70s to mid-80s over the next two weeks, the fire danger in the Puget Sound area remains high.

On July 15, King County issued a Phase 1 burn ban due to the extremely dry ground conditions. A Phase 1 ban prohibits all outdoor burning except small fires for recreational purposes.

As many people have seen, brush and grass fires spread very quickly, can endanger buildings, and are a visual distraction when near roadways.

Do your part to reduce the chance of a fire by following these simple rules:

- Always dispose of cigarettes in an ashtray or a metal container. NEVER throw burning material out a vehicle window. Fines for doing so will cost you over \$1,000 and you can be held responsible for any damage a fire may cause.
- Ensure that trailer safety chains are well off the ground. Dragging chains can cause sparks. Keep in mind that when your vehicle turns a corner, the chains on one side will sag lower.
- Check with your local fire department before starting any type of outdoor fire to ensure there are no bans, and know the regulations governing the size and contents of the fire.
- DO NOT discharge fireworks. All fireworks are illegal at this time.
- Report brush and grass fires immediately to 911. If along a highway, try to use mile markers, exit signs, or other landmarks to help responders locate the fire.

For many years we have seen the picture of Smokey Bear saying, *"only you can prevent forest fires."* That's good advice since the vast majority of fires in Western Washington are caused by humans and *can* be prevented.

Do your part.

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MEDIA CONTACT: Captain Kyle Ohashi, PIO
24611 116th Avenue SE, Kent, Washington 98030
Desk 253.856.4481 - Cell 206.972.4082

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