

The Boise County Board of County Commissioners recently passed a new outdoor burning ordinance, Ordinance 2017-01, to replace the one that's been in place for several years. This new, improved ordinance is written in a more clear and concise manner so that citizens and visitors alike can understand what is allowed during the fire season in Boise County.

The ordinance ***applies throughout the county on all lands*** (except our four incorporated cities, Horseshoe Bend, Crouch, Placerville and Idaho City), as do all state and county laws. The Sheriff or any deputized officer can enforce the ordinance's provisions. The Board of County Commissioners created this ordinance in an effort to control behaviors that in the past have started fires during fire season, which then proceeded to burn substantial acres and threaten lives and property.

The ordinance describes the fire season as July 1 through October 20 of every year and all the provisions of the ordinance are in effect during that time, every year. ***Even during that time period, the Outdoor Burning Ordinance still allows for a citizen or a visitor to have a campfire.*** Under normal fire season conditions you may have a campfire with a fuel bed of solid firewood (no brush, limbs or trash) less than 2 feet tall and 3 feet across. No fire larger than that is allowed during fire season for any reason.

Campfires, and even fires contained in fire pits and burn barrels must be placed at least 50 feet from any structure and 10 feet from any flammable material. Furthermore, any fires you start outdoors, even if contained in a private fireplace, need to have a 10 foot ring around them cleared of vegetation. If you are using a structure on other than your own land, you are responsible to provide that fuel-free zone.

Campfires must be attended at all times, by an adult 18 years or older. There must be available at all times the means to extinguish the fire, such as a fire extinguisher, water supply or tools appropriate to extinguish it with available dirt or sand.

A few important things to note:

- Burn barrels that are used to burn trash are not allowed. Burning trash is never allowed under Idaho DEQ rules, but burning in portable devices during fire season can only be burning solid wood fuel and meeting the 2' by 3' standard.
- Federal and state agencies will continue to regulate campfires during periods of extreme fire danger under their own regulations and in addition to the county ordinance.

A violation of any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding six (6) months, or both. When any particular fire creates or adds to a hazardous situation, or an unauthorized fire exists, the sheriff and the sheriff's deputies are authorized to extinguish or to order the extinguishment of the fire.