

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

PRESS RELEASE



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June 25, 2024

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Open Burning Ban on UIR Begins July 1

MISSION – The local weather pattern of hot and dry conditions, along with drying grass and vegetation has prompted Umatilla Tribal Fire Department (UTFD) officials to prohibit open burning on the Umatilla Indian Reservation (UIR) beginning July 1.

The ban on open burning, which will remain effective on the UIR until fire season ends in the fall, includes trash in burning barrels and yard debris.

Sweathouse and ceremonial fires are exempt from the ban. However, to monitor sweathouse and ceremonial fires, a verbal burn permit must be obtained from the Umatilla Tribal Dispatch by calling 541-278-0550. Burning will be regulated by firefighting resource availability and weather conditions.

The 2024 fire season has begun with hot and drought-like conditions in the area, coupled with increased concerns of potential large-growth fire. Caution should be taken with the following items: fireworks, exploding targets, full metal jacket ammunition, off-road driving and small-engine use near cured grasses.

For information regarding agricultural or other types of burning or air quality, call the Office of Air Quality at 541-429-7080. The Office of Air Quality is responsible for burning permits and determining burning activities.

For more information, call UTFD Chief James Hall at 541-276-2126.

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation is comprised of the Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla Tribes, and formed under the Treaty of 1855 at the Walla Walla Valley, 12 Stat. 945. In 1949, the Tribes adopted a constitutional form of government to protect, preserve and enhance the reserved treaty rights guaranteed under federal law.

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