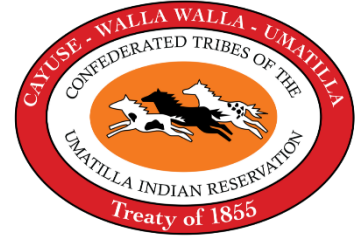


Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

PRESS RELEASE



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CTUIR Burn Ban, Public Use Restrictions Lifted

MISSION – The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) Emergency Declaration implementing a burn ban and public use restrictions has been lifted on the Umatilla Indian Reservation (UIR) effective Oct. 19.

Improving weather and fire conditions have reduced the immediate wildfire danger. However, there is still a risk for wildfires as significant amounts of dry, cured grass and other vegetation remain across the UIR. These fuels can ignite easily and support fast-moving fires that threaten homes, agricultural lands, natural and cultural resources, and public safety and everyone should remain cautious and vigilant.

“We ask everyone to continue using extreme caution. Outdoor burning must be properly prepared, continuously attended, and completely extinguished,” Umatilla Tribal Fire Department (UTFD) Fire Chief James W. Hall said. “One spark can still start a rapidly spreading wildfire.”

CTUIR Burn Permit Process

Before conducting any open burning on the UIR, residents must follow CTUIR burning regulations and confirm that burning is allowed that day. Burn permit applications, which must be updated once a year, may be obtained from the **CTUIR Department of Natural Resources Office of Air Quality (OAQ)** by calling: **541-429-7080** and follow the prompt or emailing oaq@ctuir.org.

Burn-day notices are typically updated by **9 a.m.** and are available by calling the OAQ’s main number at: **541-429-7080**. Burning may occur only on an approved CTUIR burn day.

Anyone planning to burn must follow these requirements:

- A responsible person must continuously attend and maintain control of the burn.
- Only allowable materials may be burned, including natural vegetation, grass, limbs, trees, and untreated paper or wood.
- Burning may only be conducted on an approved burn day designated by the CTUIR OAQ.
- Residential burning must be completely extinguished by dusk.
- Water, hand tools, and appropriate fire-suppression equipment must be readily available.
- The fire must be fully extinguished before it is left unattended. Drown the material with water, stir it thoroughly, and check carefully for remaining heat.

Burning is discouraged during windy or unusually dry conditions, even on an approved burn day. Individuals should also clear dry grass and other combustible material away from the burn area before ignition. For information concerning agricultural burns, forestry prescribed burns, other types of burning, or air-quality requirements, contact CTUIR OAQ at: 541-429-7080.

Motorists and equipment operators should remain cautious around dry vegetation. Hot exhaust systems, dragging chains, sparks from equipment, discarded smoking materials, and parking vehicles over cured grass can ignite wildfire.

UTFD will continue monitoring weather, fuel moisture, and wildfire activity. Restrictions may be reinstated if conditions again create an elevated wildfire threat on the UIR. To report a fire or other emergency, call **911 immediately** or **Tribal Dispatch** at: 541-278-0550.

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation is comprised of the Cayuse, Walla Walla and Umatilla 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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