



Southwest Clean Air Agency

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Burn Barrel Roundup Coming to Clark County

VANCOUVER, Wash. – The Southwest Clean Air Agency and Clark County Public Works invite Clark County residents to turn in their burn barrels. The first 50 residents to turn in burn barrels on Saturday, October 2 will receive a free compost bin and all burn barrels that are turned in will be recycled. The collection begins at 10 a.m. and goes until 2 p.m. at the Central Transfer and Recycling Center at 11034 NE 117th Ave. in Vancouver. Burn barrels must be free of all materials and ash, cold (not recently used), open-topped, and made of metal to be eligible for this program.

Burn barrels are still a common sight throughout southwest Washington, even though their use was banned in the state of Washington in 2000. Garbage burning is a more serious threat to public health and the environment than previously believed and has been illegal here since 1967.

Burning household waste produces many toxic chemicals and is one of the largest known sources of dioxin in the nation. In fact, two households burning their garbage emit more cancer-causing substances than a state-of-the-art municipal solid waste incinerator serving tens of thousands of homes.

“Smoke from garbage burning is a health hazard and a public nuisance,” says Bob Elliott, executive director of the Southwest Clean Air Agency. Particularly at risk to the effects of smoke are the elderly, children and those with asthma, heart disease or other respiratory ailments.

For any outdoor burning complaints or questions, please call the Southwest Clean Air Agency at

(more)



360-574-3058.

“Composting is a good alternative to outdoor burning and creates a resource instead of air pollution,” says Pete DuBois from Clark County Public Works. “It is an easy and inexpensive way to turn yard and garden refuse into a usable and valuable product. Compost turns organic matter like leaves, grass, weeds and wood chips into a rich soil conditioner.”

Founded in 1968, the mission of the Southwest Clean Air Agency is to preserve and enhance the air quality in southwest Washington. Serving the counties of Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Skamania and Wahkiakum, SWCAA is responsible for protecting the public’s health through the enforcement of federal, state and local air quality standards and regulations.

For more information about outdoor burning, please visit the Southwest Clean Air Agency website at www.swcleanair.org or call 360-574-3058.

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