

**Campfire Standards
Forest Service Summer homes
Naches Ranger District**

2005

A number of summer home permit holders have inquired about maintaining campfires at their cabin. The following guide is a discussion on this issue:

CAMPFIRES AT CABINS: Many summer home owners maintain a rock campfire ring at their cabin. If this fire ring is constructed with mortar or larger than 3 feet in diameter, it must be approved and authorized on the permit face page. There is no special authorization or requirement to maintain a single, 3ft rock fire ring circle at your summer home, typical of dispersed area campfire rings. You must clear a circle around the fire ring to mineral soil and you can not maintain a campfire under overhanging branches or limbs. It is always recommended that you have a shovel and bucket of water (or charged garden hose) on hand when you are maintaining a campfire.

CABIN YARD CLEAN-UP: If you are authorized to treat a hazard tree on your lot you are required to treat all slash, tops and limbs smaller than 9 inches in diameter resulting from tree removal. Additionally, you are required to clean light fuels back from your cabin each spring when you complete your required annual cabin inspection. You may cut the material smaller than 9 inches in diameter for firewood, chip and scatter it, or burn it in your fire ring. If the fire is smaller than 3ft X3ft X3 ft no burning permit required for this material but you must meet all current campfire regulations. For example; when a general campfire restriction is in effect, you may not maintain this type of campfire.

FIRE CLOSURES: Campfire and general fire closures are issued by the Forest Service during times of high fire danger. These orders may be different each season, depending on the season and area. Typically, fire closures are written to restrict campfires and charcoal or BBQ fires. Stove or fireplace fires within your cabin tract are often allowed during general campfire closures but you must review individual orders to make sure you are legal. Generally, pressurized liquid gas (propane) fires, including LP gas BBQ or heaters are allowed during fire closures because they do not create an ash or spark. If you have a question about a fire closure, call the Ranger Station (509-653-1400) for more information.

REMEMBER: You may start a campfire with light fuel but burning needles or cones in a fire crates smoke and is not recommended. You may not burn painted lumber or trash in a camp fire ring and you may not burn a fire under a live tree or overhanging limbs.

CLEAN UP: If your slash or clean-up pile is larger than 3ft X 3ft X3ft you must have a burning permit to burn it. The free burning permit is not issued during times of fire danger, typically between June 1 and August 30. Piles must be broken down to smaller than 4ft X 4ft X 4ft before the Forest Service will issue a burning permit.

HAZARD TREES: You may cut and clear your yard, road or cabin roof of fallen trees, but you may not utilize any tree for firewood which is larger in diameter than 9 inches unless you have paid for it. To initiate a hazard tree request simply mark the tree with survey ribbon and submit a hazard tree request form. A hand drawn map of the tree or trees on the back of the hazard tree request will help us find and process your requested trees. Hazard trees will not be assessed until the hazard tree form is submitted.