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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Despite wet weather, backyard burning season closes after Tuesday, June 15**

Tuesday, June 15th, marks the last day for backyard burning for Lane County residents until fall. The season, which closes in the summer because of fire danger, will remain closed until October 1, depending upon fire conditions. LRAPA's open burning season normally runs from October 1 through June 15th.

"Despite the cool, rainy weather the county has recently experienced, LRAPA'S administrative rules require all open burning must stop after June 15." said Sally Markos, LRAPA spokeswoman. "Although this is the final weekend for burning, residents should still call LRAPA's advisory line or visit [www.lrapa.org](http://www.lrapa.org) for allowed burn times." The advisory line number is 541-726-3976. Florence residents may call 541-997-1757.

During the closed season, yard debris may be disposed of at one of several local yard debris and wood recycling centers, such as Lane Forest Products, Rexius Forest By-Products or Lane County's Glenwood or Florence transfer stations (dump sites). In addition, both Eugene and Springfield residents and those living within the urban growth boundaries of the cities have curbside yard debris pickup options available with their garbage service. Composting and chipping are also encouraged.

Residents who burn during the closed season are subject to violations ranging from \$50 to \$2,500 or more. "The average residential open burning fine runs about \$300, depending upon the size of the fire and materials being burned," Markos said. "Illegal burning during the dry summer months also increases the risk of wildfires that can damage property and destroy homes." According to the Oregon Department of Forestry, backyard debris burning - which includes burn piles and burn barrels - is the leading careless human behavior that causes wildfires in Oregon.

LRAPA has seen a steady increase in citizen complaints about illegal backyard burning. "People are becoming less and less tolerant of open burning, even during the burning season. They understand it is a serious health and safety concern." Markos said.

LRAPA closes the season in cooperation with local fire departments. The season opens in the fall after the high fire danger has passed.

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