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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Backyard burning season closes June 15

This weekend marks the final weekend of the backyard burning season until fall. The backyard burning season ends Wednesday, June 15, for most residents of Lane County, and remains closed until October 15. The season closes during the summer because of high fire danger.

“Most residents who live in Lane County are affected by the summer closure,” said Kim Metzler, LRAPA spokeswoman. “The only large area exempted from the split schedule is the coastal area; however, local fire departments may ban burning there, as well.”

Occasionally the backyard burning season closes early due to unseasonably dry weather; however, this year recent heavy rains have kept fire danger low, allowing the burn season to run until the official close date. Yet, residents are encouraged to contact their local fire departments prior to conducting a burn to confirm that burning is still allowed in their districts. Some districts routinely shut off burning the end of May. All residents should call the LRAPA burn advisory - 726-3976 - to make sure burning is allowed on any given day of the season.

During the closed season, yard debris should 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).

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,” Metzler said.

LRAPA regularly receives citizen complaints about illegal backyard burning. “People are becoming less and less tolerant of open burning, even during the burning season. It’s a major health concern for many people.” Metzler 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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