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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Florence area gets help with outdoor burning beginning Saturday, October 15

Burning yard debris outdoors can send smoke into neighborhoods and the community when the burning takes place under the wrong weather conditions. Now, one phone call can make all the difference.

Just call 997-1757!

Beginning Saturday, October 15, a new outdoor burning advisory phone line will be available for the coastal area through a partnership with the Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue fire district and the Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority (LRAPA). The new local advisory line gives individuals the smart choice to decide for themselves whether they should burn on any given day. A single burn conducted under the wrong conditions can smoke up an entire neighborhood, sending sensitive individuals for medical help.

The phone call is free and the results can make an enormous difference for the community.

To use the system, an individual simply calls the open burning advisory at 997-1757, before burning to determine if the day is a good burn day. Each day, LRAPA will determine if weather conditions are conducive for burning to avoid impacts into populated areas, and relay that information to the community through the advisory phone line.

Working together to reduce smoke impacts

After receiving a number of complaints from Florence area residents about smoke-filled skies from outdoor burning, LRAPA met with the cities of Florence, Dunes City, the Department of Forestry and Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue to come up with a solution. The advisory line is the first step in a multi-faceted effort to solve the problem.

What happens next?

Over the next six months, LRAPA will be working on strategies to incorporate state requirements into its local rules for the Florence area. At the minimum, a protection area will be established and included in the local open burning rules. Florence area residents will be invited and encouraged to participate in the rule development process.

Other ways to help

- *Follow the outdoor burning advisory line – 997-1757
- *Keep piles covered and protect from moisture

(More)

- *Burn only dry, woody material
- *Start with small fires and feed the fire with branches and limbs to reduce excess smoke
- *Chip debris rather than burn it, or take it to the landfill instead
- *And, remember – burning garbage, plastic, wire insulation, asbestos-containing materials, auto parts, asphalt, petroleum by-products, tires, treated materials, rubber, animal remains, or any other material that normally emits dense smoke, noxious odors or hazardous air contaminants is strictly prohibited.

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