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Contact: Kim Metzler, 736-1056, ext. 218
Sally Markos, ext. 217
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Backyard burning season closes Sunday, June 15

This Sunday, June 15th, marks the final day for backyard burning for most 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 runs from October 1 through June 15th.

"Most residents who live in Lane County are affected by the summer closure," said Kim Metzler, LRAPA spokeswoman. "There are only a few pockets in rural Lane County where burning is allowed year-round. Residents are encouraged to contact their local fire departments if they have questions about burning in their areas."

At the request of the Siuslaw Valley Fire & Rescue district in coastal Lane County, LRAPA's open burning season now includes that district as well as most other areas of Lane County. Coastal residents not certain of their protection district should call Siuslaw Valley Fire & Rescue for more information.

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/Springfield residents and those living within the urban growth boundaries of the cities have curbside yard debris pickup options available with their garbage pick-up service.

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 serious 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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