



**Date:** March 21, 2008  
**Contact:** Kim Metzler, 736-1056, ext. 218  
Merlyn Hough, ext. 216  
Lane County Media: 08-3

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Open burning rule changes tighten some/loosen other restrictions on burning in Lane County**

After more than a year in the works, LRAPA's open burning regulations, which affect most outdoor burning in Lane County, with the exception of agricultural and forest slash burning, were amended March 14 to address several inadequacies in the rules. The rule were last amended in 2001.

Among major changes, the new rules:

- \* Bring Florence-area residents with fire protection by the Siuslaw Valley Fire & Rescue district under seasonal regulation,
- \* Bring Hazeldell residents (outside Oakridge/Westfir) under seasonal regulations,
- \* Change the fall open burning season start-date from October 15<sup>th</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup>, unless delayed by extended fire season conditions,
- \* Prohibit open burning within the Eugene/Springfield Urban Growth Boundary from November through February,
- \* Provide exemptions for religious ceremonial fires, and
- \* Clarify language around the use of recreational fires, including cooking fires, campfires, fire pits, patio wood-fired heaters and chimineas, and other similar devices.

"The new rules received a lot of consideration prior to their adoption. LRAPA received input on the rules from local fire jurisdictions, the State Department of Environmental Quality, the LRAPA citizen advisory committee, the general public and LRAPA Board of Directors," said Kim Metzler, of LRAPA. In all, the draft rules went through 10 revisions before final adoption by the Board.

"One of our biggest challenges was developing rules around outdoor/patio wood heaters," Metzler said. The final rules allow the use of them on a restricted basis. However, some cities, such as the city of Eugene, may completely prohibit their use by city ordinance. Under LRAPA rules, their use is prohibited during yellow and red advisories during the home wood heating season within the Urban Growth Boundary of Eugene/Springfield, and within the city limits of Oakridge. In addition, only clean dry firewood or barbecue briquettes may be burned in them.

The new rules are in effect immediately. They should be available to the public by April. For a full copy of the rules, contact LRAPA at 541 736-1056.

####