

## Dry Grass, Weeds and Brush

Tall dry grasses and weeds are an extreme fire hazard and a ladder fuel that allow a fire to climb up from the ground to tree canopies or structures. During dry weather conditions, dry grasses and dry weeds should be kept trimmed to a height of 3" or less if it is within 100' of a building or a combustible fence.



This is not intended to apply to shrubbery or plants which are used as ground cover, provided such are landscape materials that are properly irrigated and maintained and do not provide a ready fuel supply to augment the spread or intensity of a fire.

### Additional Measures

- Rake away leaves, dead limbs, and twigs. Remove leaves and rubbish from under structures and dispose of them properly. Clear all flammable vegetation to help reduce the fuel load.
- Have a professional tree service:
  - Thin a 15-foot space between tree crowns and remove limbs within 6 to 10 feet of the ground. This will help reduce the chance of fire spreading from tree to tree or from ground to tree.
  - Trim tree and shrub limbs so they don't come in contact with electrical wires. Electrical wires can be easily damaged or knocked loose by swaying branches.
  - Remove dead branches from all trees. Dead branches are easily combustible.
- Keep trees adjacent to buildings free of dead or dying wood and moss. Taller plants are more likely to spread fire.
- Remove vines from the walls of your home. Even live vines can spread fire quickly.
- Mow and water grass regularly. This will help reduce the fire load.
- Stack firewood uphill and away from your home.
- Regularly clean roof and gutters. Remove all dead limbs, needles, and debris that may spread fire.

If you have a concern about your neighbor's property, talk to them about your concerns. If that is a difficult conversation, consider looking into the King County Mediation Program.

# Dry Grass, Weeds and Brush, continued

## Weed Burners

Do not use a weed burner. They can cause fires and generate a lot of smoke which may offend your neighbors. Please visit [Puget Sound Clean Air Agency](#) for additional information.

## Additional Information

King County [Department of Local Services, Permitting Division](#)

[Property Research Guide](#) and [Property Research Video](#)

[Permit Fees](#)

[On-line Permit Status, Invoice Payment and Inspection Scheduling](#)

[IVR Inspection Scheduling, phone number and codes](#)

Call the Permit Center at 206-296-6600 or email [DPERWebInquiries@KingCounty.gov](mailto:DPERWebInquiries@KingCounty.gov)

[www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)

International Fire Code Section 304.1.2

International Wildland-Urban Interface Code



[King County Green Building Handbook](#)

