



Office of the Fire Chief
513 South 8th Street
Sunnyside, Washington 98944
Office (509) 837-3999, Fax (509) 836-6419

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sunnyside Promotes Fire Season Awareness

The 2019 wildfire season had an early start this year with 51 wildfires across the state in March alone. Fortunately, a combination of good public awareness of fire prevention steps and temperate weather conditions have kept most wildfires manageable at the local level so far.

As of July 8, 2019, all of central and south central Washington including Yakima and the surrounding counties remain under "HIGH" wildfire danger. The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) has identified Washington, Alaska, and southern Arizona as "areas of greatest concern" for July and August. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has issued a fire restriction order on public lands administered by the BLM and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) in 20 counties, including Yakima, in eastern Washington. The order went into effect June 22, 2019 and will likely remain in effect for the remainder of the summer.

Although there is no local burn ban in effect at this time, the Sunnyside Fire Department (SFD) reminds residents that adults may only burn wind-blown tumbleweeds within the city limits. Also, fireworks are prohibited within the city limits. Malicious and irresponsible burning puts lives and property at risk and may result in civil liability and/or penalty – please check burn restrictions before lighting any fire.

As a member of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the SFD encourages homeowners and businesses to take the FIREWISE steps to prevent and lessen the impact of fires. More information is at NFPA's website: <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA>. The SFD's trained personnel are here to assist you in identifying ways that will make your home, your business, and our community safer.

More information is available via email at FireInfo@Sunnyside-WA.gov or by calling the Sunnyside Fire Department at (509) 837-3999.

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