

## Other resources

[www.deq.state.or.us/openburning](http://www.deq.state.or.us/openburning)

Check this resource for more information on safe ways to burn yard debris.

Support from Emanuel Medical Center Foundation helped to make this information possible. If you would like to support the work of the Oregon Burn Center or Legacy Emanuel Hospital, please contact the Foundation at P.O. Box 4484, Portland, OR 97208 or call 503-413-2786.

Oregon  
Burn Center



3001 N. Gantenbein Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97227

**503-413-2398**

Toll free **1-888-598-4232**

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# BACKYARD BURNING



Oregon  
Burn Center



*The only one in Oregon.  
Only at Emanuel.*

# BACKYARD BURNING

Backyard burning is a leading cause of burn injuries.

Every year, thousands of people across the United States suffer serious burn injuries during outdoor burn season. While some of these injuries are minor, many require an extensive stay in the hospital.

Those at the greatest risk are the young and elderly who are less able to move away from a fire that gets out of control. It is important to remember that when around fire, anyone can receive a burn injury at any time. At the Oregon Burn Center, we know that almost every burn injury is preventable.

## Prevention

Check this list for some ways to keep you and your family safe when you are backyard burning this year.

**Always** keep a five-foot safety zone around the fire and remind children that this is an area for adults only.

**Never** use gasoline or other accelerant to start an outside brush or trash fire. Gasoline vapors can ignite even at very cold temperatures. Since gasoline fumes are invisible, it is impossible to determine where an explosion will occur.

If you spill gasoline on yourself, stop immediately and thoroughly wash the gasoline off your skin. If gasoline spills on clothing, remove and launder immediately.

**Never** leave a fire burning unattended. You never know who might get near it when you are not present.

Be careful of burning yard debris in a burn pit. It can be easy to lose your balance and fall into the pit, making it very difficult to escape the fire.

**Always** keep a hose, charged with water, nearby to put out a fire quickly.

**Always** check with your local fire department on whether burning is allowed in your area and what kinds of materials can be burned.

**Carefully** check what you will be burning and remove anything that might explode or ignite, such as bottles of glue, aerosol cans, batteries, and flammable liquids.

**Remember** that even after a fire is out, the ashes can remain hot for 24 hours or longer. Maintain your safety zone to keep kids from playing in this area.

Finally, remember that alcohol and fire do not mix. Alcohol impairs judgment, which often leads to preventable burn injuries. Please do not drink while backyard burning.

**If you have any questions please call the Oregon Burn Center 503-413-2398 or, Toll free 1-888-598-4232.**

