



**March 9, 2010**

**Burning to dispose of natural vegetation from improved residential property is no longer an option in most areas of Spokane County**

**Residents living in outlying areas of the county who used to be able to get rid of their residential yard and garden debris by burning it during the 8-day Spring Burn Season will now have to use other options for handling their debris, reminds the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency (Spokane Clean Air). Spokane Clean Air has been advising people for the last couple of years that the 8-day Yard and Garden Debris Burn Season would be ending after the 2009 season.**

**In early 2008, Spokane Clean Air's Board of Directors announced they would be dropping the Agency's 8-day residential yard debris burn program after the 2009 season, in order to give residents time to plan for using alternatives to burning, such as backyard composting, chipping and mulching, or hauling to a recycling/transfer station or other private collection facilities.**

**Residential yard and garden debris is the natural vegetation (leaves, needles, tree and shrub prunings) generated from the IMPROVED portion of residential property. This does not affect burning on unimproved property under the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) "silvicultural" burn program. Silvicultural debris consists of trees, brush, stumps, limbs, needles, etc., generated on unimproved property. If you have UNIMPROVED property that is outside of urban growth areas you may be eligible to burn silvicultural material. Unimproved property is the area beyond your improved property, such as lands that are not irrigated, mowed or otherwise maintained. This includes timbered pastures, brush lands, scrub forests and forests. Burning silvicultural debris on unimproved property falls under the jurisdiction of DNR. For more information, call DNR at (509) 685-6900.**

**Free training on non-burning alternatives will be provided by the Spokane County Master Composters in north Spokane County on Saturday, April 10. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Fire Station 49, located at Highway 395 near Monroe Road. At that event, Spokane Clean Air will accept natural vegetation brought in from area residents. Material will be loaded into large containers donated by ABCO Wood Recycling. Those not interested in chipping or composting their material have the option of hauling their natural vegetation to their nearest recycling/transfer station or to private collectors, such as ABCO.**

**In addition, the Master Composter Training Program starts on March 22; call the Recycling Hotline for more information, 625-6800.**

**Outdoor fires are responsible for putting numerous kinds of pollutants into our air, which irritate the respiratory system and may cause harm to human health. Exposure to very small smoke and soot particles are especially harmful to pregnant women, young children, the elderly and people with existing heart and respiratory illnesses.**

**Spokane Clean Air will enforce outdoor burning restrictions by responding to reports of illegal burning. For more information about outdoor burning or to report illegal burning, visit Spokane Clean Air's Website at [www.spokanecleanair.org](http://www.spokanecleanair.org) or call 477-4727.**

---