



# Department Policy & Procedure

Subject:	<b>Fuels for Approved Fires in Parks</b>	Number	060-P 7.19
		Supersedes	N/A
		Date	June 7, 2005
Approved:		Department: Parks & Recreation	Page 1 of 2

## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To prevent illegal fires and the burning of illegal fuels in City of Seattle parks.

## 2.0 ORGANIZATIONS AFFECTED

- 2.1 Seattle Parks and Recreation
- 2.2 Seattle Police Department
- 2.3 Beach fire community and people planning special events in Parks.

## 3.0 REFERENCES

- 3.1 Section 18.12.040 of the Seattle Municipal Code: “The Superintendent shall have the power to enforce the provisions of this chapter. The Superintendent may, in accordance with the Administrative Code, adopt, amend and rescind rules and regulations consistent with this Park Code in order to manage and control the park and recreation system of the City...”
- 3.2 Section 18.12.270 of the Seattle Municipal Code: “It is unlawful a) to ignite or maintain any fire or to participate in igniting, maintaining or using any fire within any park except in a designated stove or fire ring...or (b) to ignite in any stove or fire ring any household rubbish or other material banned from outdoor burning by air pollution control regulations.”
- 3.3 Section 18.12.275 of the Seattle Municipal Code: “It is unlawful to use a park or conduct an activity or hold an event in any park for which a permit is required by this chapter or by rules of the Superintendent without first obtaining a permit from the Superintendent.”
- 3.4 Section 18.12.278 of the Seattle Municipal Code: “ A. The Superintendent may, by delivering an exclusion notice in person to the offender, exclude from a City park zone or zones, anyone who within a City park: 1. Violates any provision with this chapter; or 2. Violates any park rule as defined in section 18.12.030; or 3. Violates any provision of the Seattle Municipal Code or Revised Code of Washington. The offender need not be charged, tried, or convicted of any crime or infraction in order for an exclusion notice to be issued or effective. The exclusion may be based upon observation by the Superintendent or upon the sort of civilian reports that would ordinarily be relied on by police officers in the determination of probable cause.”
- 3.5 RCW 70.84 (Washington Clean Air Act)  
Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, Regulation I Article 8.04 “(a) it shall be unlawful for any person to cause or allow any outdoor burning unless the burning is in compliance with Chapter 173-425 WAC.”
- 3.6 WAC 173-425-030 “(6) Firewood” means bare untreated wood used as fuel in a solid fuel burning device, Indian ceremonial fire, or recreational fire.”
- 3.7 WAC 173-425-030 “(21) ‘Recreational fire’ means cooking fires, campfires, and bonfires using charcoal or firewood that occur in designated areas or on private property for cooking, pleasure, or ceremonial purposes. Fires used for debris disposal purposes are not considered recreational fires.”
- 3.8 WAC 173-425-050: “(1) Prohibited materials. The following materials may not be burned in any outdoor fire: Garbage, dead animals, asphalt, petroleum products, paints, rubber products, plastics, paper (other than what is necessary to start a fire), cardboard, treated wood, construction/demolition debris, metal.”

#### 4.0 POLICY

4.1 It is the policy of Seattle Parks and Recreation to define rules prohibiting the presence of illegal or otherwise prohibited fire fuel on Parks property.

#### 5.0 DEFINITIONS

5.1 Illegal Fuels: Any material, the burning of which is prohibited by state and/or local laws, and/or air quality regulations. In Seattle Parks, illegal fuels include all fuels except firewood and charcoal.

5.2 Firewood: Dry, bare, untreated, and unfinished natural wood (also known as “split seasoned firewood” or “cord firewood”).

5.3 Charcoal: Store-bought wood (or wood fiber) coals or briquettes used primarily for cooking purposes.

#### 6.0 RESPONSIBILITY

6.1 Each park user is responsible to follow all applicable laws and Department of Parks and Recreation rules.

6.2 Seattle Parks and Recreation staff may monitor parks for the presence of illegal fuels and inform park users of these rules.

6.3 Seattle Parks and Recreation staff will ask park users possessing illegal fuels to remove them from the park.

6.4 Seattle Parks and Recreation staff may help park users remove illegal fuels from public areas or otherwise properly dispose of them at the park.

6.5 Seattle Police is the City agency responsible for enforcing the Seattle Municipal Code, and removing from the park users in violation of the rules.

#### 7.0 RULES

7.1 The only legal fuels for burning in a City park are firewood and charcoal. The burning of any other fuel is prohibited.

7.2 Illegal fuels may not be possessed in a City park, except when located within a vehicle.

7.3 Illegal fuels located in a vehicle cannot be removed from the vehicle.

7.4 A park visitor in unlawful possession of illegal fuels must properly dispose of their illegal fuels or must leave the park.

7.5 Exceptions to the above rules may only be given by Seattle Parks and Recreation, and may require additional permits or documented permission from other governmental agencies or organizations.

7.6 A small amount of paper or store bought lighter fluid can be used to start an approved and legal fire.