

PRESS RELEASE

Beginning January 1, 2014 Kootenai County Fire & Rescue will no longer issue burn permits for KCFR area constituents. Instead, KCFR property owners who want to burn their yard waste will be required to utilize the new on-line burn permit program hosted by the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL). The rules for outdoor burning have not changed however; residents will still need to have a permit and abide by all burning restrictions issued due to poor air quality and/or high fire danger conditions.

According to Dan Ryan, Division Chief for KCFR, the decision to change from issuing burn permits in-house to utilizing the new IDL burn permit program is primarily for the ease of use and cost benefit for KCFR constituents. “We issue approximately 1,200 burn permits per year ranging in price from \$1 to \$10 but our customers are required to come into our office to get the actual permit because we do not accept credit cards. They spend more money on gas to get here than the permit costs them.

The use of the IDL burn permit system is being implemented on a trial basis. “We are excited to be one of the first Fire Districts in North Idaho to adopt this new technology to better serve our residents. We will review how well the system works for the next eleven months then make a decision as to whether or not to continue the program or revert back to issuing in-house issue burn permits” said Ryan.

The new IDL burn permits can be accessed on the internet at burnpermits.idaho.gov. KCFR will also have a link to the IDL website on their homepage kootenaifire.com. Applicants need only complete a short, three-step process to obtain the permit; which is good for ten (10) days at a time. A copy of the permit can be printed directly from the website or emailed to the applicant.

KCFR is hoping that in addition to being more convenient for homeowners the new burn permit system will help them keep track of individuals who are actively burning; reducing the need to chase smoke complaints or calls for possible fires. “Since the IDL permits are valid only for 10 days at a time- it makes it easier for us to quickly look on-line and see if something is a planned burn or a possible fire”, said Ryan. Although IDL only requires burn permits to be issued May 10th through October 20th of each year – KCFR is requiring people to obtain permits year round as it gives crews a better idea of who is burning and where as well as keeping people more current with air quality and fire danger issues.

In addition to requiring burn permits year round, KCFR also requires that individuals follow all existing rules for outdoor burning including calling the DEQ Hotline (800-633-6247) to ensure air quality is GREEN for burning. A complete list of rules and requirements for burning within the KCFR Fire District boundaries and more information on the IDL burn permit system can be found on the agencies’ website (www.kootenaifire.com) or by calling 777-8500 during normal business hours.