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LRAPA Public Affairs

*For immediate release...*

## **LRAPA asks Lane County residents to voluntarily stop outdoor burning**

SPRINGFIELD, Ore. – The Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA), amongst other state agencies, asks residents of Lane County to voluntarily stop outdoor burning activities as communities respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

LRAPA is sensitive to the need for outdoor burning to manage and maintain lands. However, we ask residents to consider the effects smoke plays on their neighbors and community, particularly those suffering from COVID-19 – a respiratory illness, before choosing to burn.

While some suffering from COVID-19 remain in the hospital, most recover at home, where smoke may worsen their condition, or slow recovery. To avoid these potential health impacts Lane County residents are encouraged to refrain from outdoor burning activities.

This request aligns with other state agencies such as the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office (OSFM), Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), and Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

Additional information of these agencies' recommendation all Oregonians refrain from outdoor burning can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2X9Qn78>

LRAPA works to ensure the safety and well-being of Lane County residents. The current pandemic is fluid and changing. LRAPA's planning and decision-making will be based on the most current information from Lane County Public Health (LCPH), the OHA, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as other local, state, and national authorities.

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