

**Public Safety Department Newsletter Article
April 2012**

Fire Safety

As we all are aware, this is looking to be a dry year in the Eastern Sierra. A dry year = ideal burning conditions. Remember, if you let a fire get out of control you could be liable for costs and damages associated with the fire. We all know how quickly a fire can spread as was evident from last year's fires in the Big Pine area.

Keep in mind, whenever you're burning, to make sure you fully extinguish all ashes! It doesn't take much for a pile of hot ash to rapidly turn into an out of control fire as was the cause of this recent fire on the Bishop Reservation.



Luckily, this fire was quickly contained by the Bishop Volunteer Fire Department and was confined to about a 100' x 100' area, mostly vegetation, but, well within reaching distance of nearby residences. It was a control burn from the previous day that flared back up.

BURN PERMITS:

For the convenience of tribal members Burn Permits are available from the Tribe's Environmental Management Office and are valid for one calendar year, ending December 31st. Burning times are 5am to noon on "yes" burn days. Local radio stations are good at advising if it's a "yes" or "no" burn day.

Burning is restricted to yard waste in 4-foot by 4-foot piles, small plots of grass or strips of grass along fence lines, cardboard and non-glossy paper in burn barrels. In the Owens Valley, the winds typically pick up in the afternoon, making it possible for even a small fire to get out of control. In addition, if you put your fire out by noon, but have a flare up, it will happen during daylight hours when you can more easily manage it. THE RULES FOR OPEN BURNING ARE FOR YOUR SAFETY!

For more information on burn permits and requirements call the Environmental Management Office or call the Air Quality Specialist at 760 873 7845.

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