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**From:** Air Quality [<mailto:airquality@nezperce.org>]

**Sent:** Friday, March 27, 2020 2:46 PM

**To:** Undisclosed recipients:

**Subject:** Reduce Open Burning Activities on the Nez Perce Reservation

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**Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Nez Perce Tribe would like to encourage the public on the Nez Perce Reservation to reduce open burning activities as communities respond to the virus.**

**Smoke from open burning can cause unnecessary public health and safety concerns and impact local service providers:**

- Smoke inhalation can cause upper respiratory symptoms, which could be incorrectly attributed to COVID-19.
- Smoke exposure impacts can lead to unnecessary testing or self-isolation.
- First responders and other emergency services are operating at a reduced capacity and have limited resources to respond to out-of-control burns.
- Personal protective equipment to reduce smoke exposure is not readily available at this time.

**The Nez Perce Tribe highly encourages the public on the Nez Perce Reservation to use alternatives to burning, such as:**

- **Lawn mulching**—Leave grass clippings on your lawn to add nutrients back into the soil and improve lawn health.
- **Composting**—Compost yard waste to recycle organic material and add nutrients back into the soil.
- **Chipping**—Add chipped brush, pruning, or wood waste to your compost pile or soil to increase nutrient content.
- **Landfills**—Many landfills offer free or reduced fees for yard waste.

**If you must burn on the Nez Perce Reservation, please ensure that you:**

- Have an approved Nez Perce Tribe Air Quality Burn Permit and any other necessary fire safety approvals.
- Have appropriate fire safety measures in place to prevent escaped fire.
- Do not impact people with smoke.

***If conditions warrant, the Nez Perce Tribe may determine it is necessary to issue a burn ban. If so, notice of such burn ban will be given at that time.***

**Nez Perce Tribe Air Quality Program**

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