

## WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION:

Yurok Tribe Environmental Program (YTEP)  
(707) 482-1822  
[yuroktribe.org/departments/ytep](http://yuroktribe.org/departments/ytep)

Weitchpec Transfer Site  
Highway 169 Fri, Sat, Sun 9-3  
Blue Bags can be purchased

Weitchpec Tribal Office  
(530) 625-4130  
Blue Bags can be purchased

Del Norte County Solid Waste Authority  
(707) 465-1100  
Klamath Transfer Station  
Wed & Sun 10-5  
[www.recycledelnorte.ca.gov](http://www.recycledelnorte.ca.gov)

Del Norte Disposal now called "RECOLOGY Del Norte"  
For Klamath curbside garbage  
(707) 464-4181  
[www.recologydelnorte.com](http://www.recologydelnorte.com)

Humboldt Waste Management Authority  
(707) 268-8680  
[www.humboldtrecycling.org](http://www.humboldtrecycling.org)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District  
[www.ncuaqmd.org](http://www.ncuaqmd.org)  
866-BURN-DAY

**Some information used was adopted from:**  
U.S.EPA backyard burning webpage  
[www.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/municipal/backyard](http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/municipal/backyard)  
[www.humboldtrecycling.org](http://www.humboldtrecycling.org)  
[www.recycledelnorte.ca.gov](http://www.recycledelnorte.ca.gov)

## WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

- **Burn Permits** are issued by YTEP free of charge. Under the Yurok Tribal Air Quality Ordinance anyone burning yard waste or other approved items must have a valid burn permit from YTEP. Burn permit applications are available online on YTEP's website  
<http://www.yuroktribe.org/departments/ytep/Air.htm>

### When burning:

- Only burn approved items like yard vegetation.
- you must have your valid burn permit on site,
- be an approved burn day (call 866-BURN-DAY the YIR is in Zone 1.)
- burn between 9AM-3PM,
- fire must be less than 5 ft diameter,
- fire must be attended at all times,
- fire suppression equipment must be on site,



THE YUROK TRIBE

Yurok Tribe Environmental Program  
P.O. Box 1027 Klamath, CA 95548

## Reducing Backyard Burning on the Yurok Indian Reservation



**WHAT TRIBAL MEMBERS & RESERVATION RESIDENTS NEED TO KNOW TO PROTECT THEIR HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

Burning of household waste is a long-standing but out dated practice in many rural areas including the Yurok Indian Reservation. Smoke from these trash fires contains dangerous chemicals that affect your health & pollute our environment.



**Yurok Tribe  
Environmental Program-YTEP**

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## BACKYARD BURNING IS A HEALTH HAZARD

Backyard burning is an outdated practice that should be stopped. Burning household garbage in burn barrels, open piles, or other means has been practiced for generations on the Yurok Indian Reservation. Burning trash is no longer acceptable. This practice is a major source of dioxin and other toxic emissions, damaging both our health and our environment. Backyard burning is a more serious threat to public health and the environment than previously believed. Many scientific studies show that burning household waste produces many toxic chemicals and is one of the largest known sources of dioxins nationwide. Several tribes and states, including the Yurok Tribe and the State of California have already banned burning trash.

## DIOXINS

### What are dioxins?

Dioxins are highly toxic, long-lasting organic compounds. They are dangerous even at extremely low levels and have been linked to several health problems, including cancer, and developmental and reproductive disorders.

### How are dioxins formed?

Dioxins are formed when products containing carbon and chlorine are burned. Even very small amounts of chlorine can produce dioxins. Because burn barrels do not have the same strict controls as municipal incinerators, barrel burning releases significant amounts of dioxins. Trying to prevent dioxins from forming by separating out items high in chlorine content is not effective, since low levels of chlorine are present in most household trash. Dioxins are created by burning trash.

### How are we exposed to dioxins?

Dioxins accumulate in the food chain. Airborne dioxins can settle on vegetation, which are then eaten by animals. These dioxins accumulate in the fats of animals, and then in humans when we consume fish, meat and dairy products. Dioxins can also settle on water or enter waterways through soil erosion.

## OTHER AIR POLLUTANTS

Smoke from burn barrels contains hazardous pollutants such as particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, lead, mercury, and hexachlorobenzene. These pollutants can have immediate and long term health effects such as:

- Asthma, emphysema, and other respiratory illnesses.
- Nervous system, kidney, or liver damage.
- Reproductive or developmental disorders.
- Cancer.

Not only are the people who burn trash exposed to these pollutants, but so are their families & neighbors. Children, the elderly, & those with preexisting respiratory conditions can be especially vulnerable.

### Ash

The ash residue from backyard burning can contain toxic pollutants, such as mercury, lead, chromium, and arsenic, which can contaminate vegetables if scattered in gardens. Children can accidentally swallow toxic materials from dirt on their hands while playing near discarded ash. Pets can distribute ash residue and toxins from burned material. Toxins can leech into waterways and drinking water sources.

### Yurok Culture

These pollutants also impact Yurok Culture by contaminating our cultural resources: such as cultural use plants used for basket materials, medicinal plants, and berries as well as contaminate fish, game, and drinking water. Smoke from illegal trash fires know no boundaries. Be respectful of others by not burning garbage.

### Yurok Tribal Air Quality Ordinance

Yurok Tribal law prohibiting trash burning and establishing authority for YTEP to issue burn permits.



This photo is of a large illegal trash burn pile on the YIR

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

There are many free and low cost alternatives to backyard burning:

- **Reduce.** You can reduce the amount of waste you generate by using durable, long-lasting goods and avoiding disposable items; for example buy cloth diapers instead of disposable diapers. Buy products in bulk; and look for products with less packaging.
- **Reuse.** Reusing items is another way to reduce the amount of waste you generate. Repair, sell, or donate used or unwanted items or organize a neighborhood swap event or yard sale. One person's trash is another person's treasure!
- **Recycle.** Upriver at the Weitchpec Transfer site, cans, bottles, glass, batteries and motor oil can be dropped off for free. In Willow Creek, Popko Recycling pays for cans, bottle and glass recycling. Popko # (530) 629-2054. The Klamath Transfer Station has free drop off for, plastic bottles, cans, glass and newspaper. Julindra Recycling in Crescent City pays CRV for cans, bottles and glass. Julindra # (707) 464-CANS. There are numerous used motor oil drop off locations in Crescent City. Residents on the YIR can contact YTEP for scrap metal recycling.
- **Compost.** Composting is a great way to dispose of yard trimmings and food scraps, while creating a natural, free fertilizer. As long as you don't dispose of meat or animal parts, you should not attract wildlife.
- **Properly Dispose of Waste.** Don't burn or dump illegally. Waste disposal is available throughout the reservation. Household waste should be taken to the Weitchpec Transfer Station or the Klamath Transfer Station.
  - **Curbside garbage service is available upriver through the [Blue Bag Program](#). Blue Bags can be purchased at the Weitchpec Transfer Station, at the Weitchpec Tribal Office or call YTEP (707) 482-1822. In Klamath Del Norte Disposal offers curbside waste collection service. (707) 464-4181.**