



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type:	City Council
Meeting Date:	November 3, 2025
From:	Kelly O'Neill Jr., Development Services Director
Subject:	PUBLIC HEARING: Ordinance 2025-36 - Outdoor Burning Code Amendments

DECISION TO BE MADE:

Public hearing to discuss proposed code amendments to [Chapter 8.36 - Outdoor Burning](#) in Sandy's Municipal Code and adoption of Ordinance No. 2025-36.

APPLICABLE COUNCIL GOAL:

- **Goal 6.8:** Study options for updating the City's regulations on outdoor burning.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT:

Amending Chapter 8.36 - Outdoor Burning, became a new City Council goal during the goal setting session in February 2025. On May 27, 2025, staff asked the Planning Commission for input on the draft code amendments. The Planning Commission made a few recommendations as detailed in the [meeting minutes](#) that have been incorporated into the draft code amendments.

The City of Sandy's regulations on outdoor burning were last updated in 2005. The current code language for outdoor burning is relatively short, vague, limited, and does not address matters like "Enforcement and Violations."

The proposed code amendments are intended to promote public health, safety, and welfare. Clackamas County Fire Marshal's Shawn Olson and Mike Boumann reviewed the draft code amendments, as did the City Attorney. Their comments and suggested edits have been incorporated into the draft code amendments. Multiple subsections of the revised code were taken from the Clackamas Fire District "Open Burn Guidelines" and the Oregon Fire Code (Interpretations and Technical Advisories) sheet consistent with [OAR 340](#).

KEY CONSIDERATIONS / ANALYSIS:

For additional information regarding the modified code amendments that were presented to the City Council at the work session on September 15, 2025, please refer to the staff report from that meeting ([link](#)).

At the work session on September 15, the City Council asked for five modifications to the proposed code amendments.

- Agricultural burning - Change 3 feet in height to 6 feet in height for burn pile debris.
- Backyard burning - Change from 10 feet in diameter by 3 feet in height to 7 feet in diameter by 5 feet in height for burn pile debris.
- Add an additional provision that burning shall not occur on steep slopes.
- Add an additional provision that burning shall not occur under electrical transmission lines.
- Add B. to Section 8.36.020.

Staff have worked with the City Attorney to complete the five modifications as requested by the City Council, which are reflected in Exhibit A. Staff confirmed with a Portland General Electric (PGE) foreman that 20 feet is an appropriate distance for fire to be kept away from transmission lines.

BUDGET IMPACT:

None

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend that the City Council hold a public hearing to take testimony and then vote to approve Ordinance No. 2025-36 to amend Chapter 8.36 for Outdoor Burning.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS / EXHIBITS:

- Attachment 1: Ordinance No. 2025-36
 - Exhibit A: Chapter 8.36 with track change amendments