

How do you participate in Virtual Preheat?

You build a burnable effigy, host a small Burn wherever you are and within your local COVID-safe limits. Then SAFELY burn your effigy, uploading a video of your effigy burn.

Building an Effigy

To help make sure everyone can participate, members of the D.O.G.S (Department of Public Works) and C.A.T.S (Combustion Arts Tactics & Safety) teams have created and gifted to our community a simple Shim Design you can build yourself, along with some fire safety best practices. Using these blueprints and some common do-it-yourself tools, you'll be able to build your very own effigy.

Or you can build whatever is in your imagination. Make your effigy (It doesn't have to be a Shim) out of any burnable materials for installation in a place where you can SAFELY burn it. Just keep it positive and remember, this is an all-ages experience.

How to Share Your Man Burn

If you want to feature your Effigy on the stream send your video to: epc2021@burntoranges.org
All submissions will be reviewed and approved before appearing in the stream.

Burning Your Man

Host a small Burn wherever you are, within your local COVID-safe limits.

Burn your effigy and submit the video.

If you're burning, SAFELY ignite your Man or other effigy. Fire dance if that's your thing, showcase your art, bring your passions. Do it all!

Safety Guidelines

So, you want to burn a small effigy at home...

Fire provides warmth on a cold night; it builds community as we are drawn to gather around its glow. It provides us with opportunities for creative expression and socializing, as well as rituals of change and rebirth both physically and metaphorically. Along with all of these benefits comes responsibility, both on a personal level and a community level, to ensure safety and protect your property, your neighborhood and surrounding wild lands.

If you choose to burn, here are a few things to keep in mind. These tips are not something that can be applied to all situations and are intended to serve only as a starting point to help YOU think about factors to consider when creating your own safety plan, specific to your circumstances. These tips are intended for small controlled fires of no more than a couple feet in size. Please remember that all fires have the possibility of getting out of control and responsible burning requires the utmost in planning and attention.

Is it permissible to have a fire where you are?

There are some areas where having a fire outside is not ok.

The risk of wildfire is real and the results of your actions could be catastrophic. Local fire regulations must be checked to make sure your fire will not conflict with "No Burn" days in your area. Also, ask yourself if having a small fire in your neighborhood will cause stress for your neighbors.

While you may have a certain amount of comfort around fire, you do not want to cause concern in your neighborhood or receive an unexpected visit from the fire department. Check in with your neighbors so they are aware of your plans and you can address any concerns!

Burn pit, burn pan, fire ring – Containing the fire

A pit, pan or ring to contain the fire is important. The containing pan or ring should be large enough to contain the burning object no matter what direction it tips or falls. A good rule of thumb for projects that are taller than they are wide is that the base pan or ring should be one and a half times wider from the center than the object to be burned is tall.

For projects that are wider than they are tall, give yourself at least 12 inches from the edge of the project to the edge of the pit, pan or ring. This assumes that the project is no larger than a couple feet in any direction and it

is centered in the protective area. If the tall parts are near the edge, expand the protective area as required to catch any possible flaming bits. The depth should be adequate to contain any firewood used and the bed of coals that will be produced.

If you need to protect the surface underneath your burn, you might want to raise your burn pan on stable legs or bricks. If you raise it, you need to make sure it can hold the weight of the effigy and the firewood. Also keep in mind that metal may deform and be weakened by heat. You should take care to clear any flammables such as dry grass, wood chips or other debris from the area surrounding your fire pit, pan, or ring.

Are there flammables nearby?

As you are planning on where to set up your burn, look around for hazards embers could rise into, such as nearby trees, dry grass, paper or other debris, and the proximity of your house and others. The fire code in most areas requires that your fire be no less than 15 feet from the nearest structure, and have at least 15 feet of vertical clearance from anything overhanging. Remember, flying embers love to find overhanging eaves, so make sure the wind is not going to push embers towards your house or other nearby structures. Use a hose to moisten the surrounding area pre-burn if possible.

What materials are you using?

Items such as cardboard, fabric, paper, and other lightweight materials should be avoided. These materials can become airborne easily and float off to cause fire far away from the area where you are burning. Remember that the fire itself can create its own wind and uplift even on a windless night! You need a plan to handle any flying embers, even under windless conditions.

Lighting your effigy

If you have experience building fires, you know that with the proper amount of tinder and kindling, and with seasoned wood, you should not need additional fuel. If you are using lumber or manufactured wood for your mini effigy, you may be tempted to add flammable liquids to aid in the lighting and burning process. If you feel you must add these, only do so BEFORE ignition. Avoid fuels such as gasoline and naphtha (white gas, camp fuel), which will cause a dangerous flash when ignited and evaporate quickly, which will not help your wood burn. Kerosene and lamp oil are safer choices. They will take slightly longer to ignite, but will help your wood burn because they will not evaporate quickly. Less is more, unless you want to be missing your eyebrows during your next Zoom meeting. Keep your face and body away from the fire when lighting. Consider using a long lighter, ignited stick, or fire staff for this purpose.

Fire suppression

Make sure you have a hose charged and ready to go with some kind of nozzle to squirt a stream a far distance if needed. The hose should be long enough to reach your fire and well past it if needed. It would also be wise to keep a five-gallon bucket filled with water close in case it is needed. A fire extinguisher should also be kept close at hand.

Make a plan before you need it!

It is always advisable to make a plan for what you will do in case of an emergency or unintended fire and not have to make it up in the moment it is needed!

Think about what you will do if embers come off your project, what you will do if there is a small fire, and what you will do if things get out of control. Decide who does what and when, and let those folks know the plan before you even light a match. Planning is essential. It is important to have defined roles at your burn.

One person will be overloaded if they have to do all of the work themselves. In an emergency, you will need help to call for the fire department while someone is at the same time putting out the fire to the best of their ability. Remember that these people should be sober and responsible!

Burn Lead – This person is in charge of the preparation of and the ignition of your effigy. They will also clear the area of any flammable debris and ensure the fire support structure is stable and the perimeter is correctly sized.

Safety Lead – This person is in charge of safety, making sure the fire suppression tools at hand are sufficient, in place, and is ready to call for help if needed. Check your cell service before you need it!

Participant Lead – this person is in charge of keeping an eye on your family, guests or anyone who has come to your burn.

Enjoy your burn and be safe!!!