

# B RUSH

# F IRE

# S AFETY

Open burning season is from January 15 to May 1 each year and may change based upon weather and fire hazard conditions.

A written permit must be obtained from the Fire Department. The permit costs \$5 and is valid for the burning season. The permit holder must call each day to see if burning is allowed that day.

Weather conditions can change rapidly, especially in the spring, and fire officers will determine on a daily basis when it is safe to conduct open burning. If winds kick up or other atmospheric conditions change suddenly, making it unsafe to burn, permits can be rescinded.

The open burning must be a minimum of 75 feet from all buildings and must be conducted between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

**Permitted**

Burning, with a permit for the following materials is allowed:

- Brush, cane, driftwood, and forestry debris from other than commercial or industrial land clearing operations.
- Materials normally associated with the pursuit of agriculture such as fruit tree prunings, dead raspberry stalks, blueberry patches for pruning purposes, and infected bee hives for disease control.
- Trees and brush resulting from agricultural land clearing.

- Fungus infected elm wood, if no other acceptable means of disposal is available.

**Prohibited**

Burning of the following materials is prohibited statewide:

- Brush, trees, cane and driftwood from commercial and/or industrial land clearing operations.
- Grass, hay, leaves and stumps, and tires.
- Construction material and debris.

**How to Safely Ignite the Fire**

An adult should always be present during open burning and children and pets should be kept a safe distance away.



Use paper and kindling to start the fire and add progressively larger pieces of wood. Parts of a leftover Christmas tree may also be used. Another

good choice is a manufactured fire-place log.

Never use gasoline, kerosene or any other flammable liquid to start a fire because the risk of personal injury is high.

Burn one small pile at a time and slowly add to it. This will help keep the fire from getting out of control.

Select a location away from any utility lines. Fire Must Be Attended Until Extinguished.

**Have Fire Control Tools On Hand**

Have fire extinguishment materials on hand including a water supply, shovels and rakes.

The water supply should be a garden hose, and be sure to test it out before igniting the fire. You do not want to find out that the water is still shut-off at the house faucet or that the hose is cracked when you need it most.

**Watch the Wind: Be Prepared to Extinguish All Open Burning**

Be prepared to extinguish your fire if the winds pick up or weather changes. Use common sense and don't wait for the fire department to contact you that it has become unsafe to burn. Sudden wind change is how most open burning gets out of control.



**Don't Delay a Call For Help**

If for some reason, the fire should get out of control, call the fire department immediately. Use the utmost caution to prevent injury to yourself or family members or any damage by fire to your home.

People conducting illegal burning, or who allow a fire to get out of control, may be held liable for costs of extinguishing the fire, fined and even imprisoned (MGL C48 S13).

**Alternatives to Open Burning**

Open burning releases large amounts of carbon dioxide, other gases, and solid substances directly into the air, which can contribute to respiratory problems. Disposal of natural materials is never as good for the environment as using them again in a different form. Tree limbs, brush and other forestry debris can be chipped or composted into landscaping material.

**More Questions?**

**Call the fire department at 508-945-2324.**