



Open Air Burning Permit Information

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Ontario Fire Code Sentence 2.6.3.4. states: "Open air burning shall not be permitted unless approved, or unless such burning consists of a small confined fire, supervised at all times, and used to cook food on a grill or barbecue."

Interpretation:

'**Approved**' means approved by the Chief Fire Official or his designate. Approval is in the form of an 'Open Air Burn Permit' issued by the Grey Highlands Fire & Emergency Services or designate.

'**Small confined fire**' used to cook food is defined as a fire reasonably proportioned to the food being cooked, ie: fire with 1m diameter not required to roast marshmallows.

A fire used to cook must be contained in a fire pit or enclosure that is constructed of a non-combustible material such as stones, cement or metal and limited to the size of a household barbecue. The fire must be extinguished immediately after the food has been cooked.

NOTE: If the applicant does not own the property, written approval from the owner authorizing the burn on his/her property is required. The property owner is fully responsible for any damages, Provincial Offences Act charges and costs should the fire get out of control.

Permit To Conduct Open Air Burning

General Requirements:

1. No Open Air Burning permitted in urban or built up areas without direct approval from the Chief Fire Official and is not typically recommended.
2. Commercial, construction, farm, or a special Open Air Burn shall be conducted in day light hours beginning not less than 1/2 hour after sunrise and concluding 1/2 hour before sunset. The fire shall be completely extinguished not later than 1/2 hour before sunset. Any exception to the above stated burning hours must be approved by the Chief Fire Official.
3. The Permit Holder shall ensure a responsible adult is present at and attends the fire at all times until completely extinguished.
4. The Permit Holder shall ensure adequate equipment is on site in order to prevent the fire from spreading beyond control, and/or causing damage or danger to persons or property. The equipment shall be described by the Permit holder on the application and shall take into consideration the burn location, materials to be burned and the full responsibility to ensure control and suppression capability.

5. The Permit Holder shall ensure weather conditions are favourable to conduct the burn in a safe manner. Wind speeds are not to exceed 15 km/hour at any time during the burn. Adherence mandatory to all burn bans/restrictions declared by the Chief Fire Official.
6. The Permit Holder shall ensure the fire does not include any, but not limited to, the products listed below and shall not be in contravention of any or all Ministry of Environment regulations:
 - petroleum based products such as oil or grease;
 - asphalt materials including building materials;
 - aerosol or pressurized containers;
 - wood products with high glue content (ie particle board);
 - products known to be harmful to the environment;
 - rubber products including tires;
 - plastic products;
 - wood or paper products treated with chemical preservatives;
 - household garbage.
7. A small quantity of a flammable/combustible liquid may be used with extreme caution to initiate combustion.
8. The Permit Holder shall ensure the burn site is a satisfactory clear distance from building structures, hedges, fences, property lines and/or windbreaks and shall specify these distances on the burn permit application.
9. The Permit Holder shall ensure the burn site is clear of ground cover vegetation and shall specify the means taken for such clearing ie: tilling the subject land.
10. The Permit Holder shall ensure the volume of materials burned at one time does not exceed a quantity that can be safely managed with on-site extinguishment capabilities. Regardless of those capabilities, the maximum pile size shall not exceed 20 feet long x 20 feet wide x 6 feet high.
11. The Permit Holder shall ensure the fire does not:
 - cause discomfort to other persons;
 - cause loss of enjoyment to normal use of property;
 - interfere with the normal conduct of business, or
 - impair visibility on any public highway or roadway.

Permit for Recreational/Residential Burning

General Requirements:

1. Only seasoned (dry) wood shall be burned. Burning of leaves or other compostable yard waste is prohibited in built up or urban areas.

2. Only paper and kindling (no flammable or combustible liquids) shall be used to start the fire.
3. Where children will be present, they shall not be allowed to play with the fire and shall be supervised by a responsible adult at all times.
4. Where very young children (toddlers) will be present, a barricade suitable to prevent them from reaching the fire or any hot surfaces shall be erected surrounding the fire area.
5. No fire container shall be used to obstruct pedestrian or vehicle traffic either on the roadway or the entrance to the property.
6. The burn area shall not be less than 5 meters from any structure on the property and 3 meters from trees and combustible vegetation, combustible fences and overhanging tree limbs/branches.
7. The ground surrounding the burn area shall be free of dead grass and similar readily combustible vegetation.
8. The burn area shall be not less than 3 meters to the side of the overhead service wires such as hydro or cable television.
9. An adequate means to control and extinguish the fire such as a garden hose, buckets of water, portable fire extinguisher, shovels or fire brooms shall be readily available at all times at the burn site location.
10. The burn area shall be supervised at all times by a responsible adult capable of controlling and extinguishing the fire.
11. Smoke shall not impair visibility or create a potential hazard for traffic on any street or roadway.
12. Smoke shall not reduce any neighbor's right to enjoy their property. Any complaint about smoke from a neighbor will result in the permit being withdrawn.

Campfire/Bonfire Requirements:

1. The burn area shall be contained and not more than 1 meter in diameter.
2. Campfire/bonfires shall be completely extinguished between 1:00 am and 7:00 am.
3. Only clean dry wood may be burned. Pressure treated wood and glued wood fibre products shall not be burned.

Burn Barrel Requirements:

1. The burn materials shall be contained in a barrel with a capacity not greater than 205 litres.
2. Burning may take place during daylight hours only.
3. Only wood, dry vegetation and similar materials may be burned. Plastic, rubber, asphalt shingles, household garbage and similar products potentially hazardous to the environment shall not be burned.

Cost Recovery

In the event the Fire Service responds to extinguish Open Air Burning being conducted without a Permit, or in violation of the conditions of the Permit, the full costs of extinguishment, including labor costs and equipment costs, as determined by the Chief Fire Official may be charged to the property owner and/or Permit Holder.

Penalties

Any violation of the conditions of the Permit to Conduct Open Air Burning, in the opinion of a Fire Department Officer, will result in any or all of the following action(s) being taken.

- Extinguishment of the fire.
- Revoking of Permit To Conduct Open Air Burning with no refund of fee.
- Refusal of future requests for a Permit To Conduct Open Air Burning.
- Assessment of Service Charges per the Municipal User Fee By-Law.
- Laying of charge(s) under the authority of the Fire Protection and Prevention Act 1997.
- Provincial Offences Act charges.

Site Inspections

Any person may request a site inspection to conduct open air burning. Such requests will be reviewed by the Chief Fire Official, or designate, and will be subject to cost recovery as per the Municipal Fee Index.

To arrange a site inspection, call the Municipal Office. The site visit will be scheduled within 2 business days in most cases.