

PROCEDURES FOR OPEN FIRE BURNING UNDER THE ONTARIO FIRE CODE AND WOODY DEBRIS AND GRASS BURNING REGULATIONS UNDER THE FOREST FIRES PREVENTION ACT

If you have woody debris or grass to dispose of, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) strongly suggests composting or using a chipper. But if you must burn, the MNR would like to remind you that there are regulations that must be followed as outlined in the Forest Fires Prevention Act.

These regulations are in effect from April 1st to October 31st each year except in a restricted fire zone (where no open burning is permitted under any circumstance). A fire may be started if conditions allow the fire to burn safely until extinguishment and all necessary steps are taken to tend, control and extinguish the fire.

1. No persons shall start a fire outdoors from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. during the period of April 1st to October 31st. Open air fires may be set when such burning consists of a small confined fire not larger than 60 cm by 60 cm, supervised at all times, and is used to cook food on a grill or barbecue, or is for personal warmth **unless a total restricted fire ban exists**.
2. No person shall start a fire outdoors for the purpose of burning piled wood, brush, leaves, or discarded wood products unless **all** the following conditions are met:
 - A responsible person is available to tend the fire until it is extinguished;
 - The material is burned in a single pile that is not more than two metres in diameter and less than two metres high;
 - Only a single pile is burned at any one time;
 - The fire is at least two metres from any flammable materials; and
 - The person tending the fire has adequate tools and or water available to contain the fire to the fire site.
3. You can burn piled wood, brush, leaves or wood by-products in an incinerator provided you meet **all** the following conditions:
 - The incinerator is an enclosed device constructed entirely of non-combustible material;
 - The incinerator is at least five metres from any forest or woodland;
 - The incinerator is at least two metres from any flammable materials; and
 - The outlet of the incinerator is covered by a screen having a mesh size of not more than five millimetres;
 - A responsible person monitors the fire until it is extinguished.
4. You can burn areas of grass or leaf litter on land you lawfully occupy or give permission to burn grass and leaf litter on land you lawfully occupy, provided you meet **all** of the following conditions:
 - The total area to be burned does not exceed one hectare;
 - The flaming edge of the fire does not exceed 30 metres in length;
 - A responsible person tends the fire until it is extinguished;
 - You have tools and water adequate to contain the fire to the fire site;
 - The fire is not ignited before 7:00 p.m. and is extinguished before sunrise.

All persons setting an open air fire in the Township of Carlow/Mayo **shall**:

1. Be responsible for any damage to property or injury to persons occasioned by the said fire;
2. Be liable for all costs incurred by the municipality, including personnel, equipment and apparatus necessary to extinguish the said fire.

No open air fire shall be maintained when the wind is in such a direction or intensity so as to cause any or all of the following:

1. A decrease in visibility on any highway or roadway;
2. A rapid spread of fire through grass or a brush area;
3. An adverse affect on neighbouring lands and/or any person.

The Chief Fire Official or designate is authorized to order any person to extinguish any fire or to cause such a fire to be extinguished when in his/her opinion, there is a danger of such fire spreading or otherwise endangering life or property and the person shall comply with any such order.

The Chief Fire Official may declare a partial or total ban against outdoor burning when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous. Bans against burning shall be posted.

Any person who contravenes any of these regulations is guilty of an offence, and upon conviction, is liable to a fine up to \$1,000.00.