

Town of Washington Fire Department Burning Regulations

Burn hot line 603 495-3030

BRUSH AND OPEN BURNING (Category I and III) including portable fireplaces

- ❖ All open burning within the Town of Washington requires a permit.
- ❖ Permits may be obtained by contacting a warden (list is on Town's website under the Fire Department).
- ❖ A permit for the purpose of burning brush (Category III) shall be issued for use from 5 p.m. to 9 a.m. unless there is a sustained rain or the ground is covered with snow, in a 100 ft. radius from the edge the fire. The permit for burning shall be issued and in force only during these times. At the end of the time frame allotted (9 a.m.), the fire shall be completely extinguished (not emitting smoke, heat or flame).
- ❖ Persons applying for a burning permit must own the property where the fire is located. Persons renting or leasing property must produce a written consent form from the property owner, addressed to the fire department before a permit will be issued. No permits shall be issued to any youth under the age of eighteen (18) years old.
- ❖ At no time shall any fire be left unattended by the Permittee. The Permittee shall be responsible for the fire and capable of extinguishing the fire. They shall be on the same property as the fire and have it in plain view.
- ❖ A proper method for the control and extinguishment of all open burning, shall be in place at all times. The burying of any fire shall not constitute being extinguished.
- ❖ Brush piles shall be no larger than five (5) feet in diameter and five (5) feet in height at any time. The diameter of the brush, slash, limbs, etc., shall never exceed five (5) inches. Category III fires shall not be closer than fifty (50) feet to a significant structure.
- ❖ Applicants shall not burn or cause to be burned a fire that may communicate to the woodlands, nor under phone lines or power lines.
- ❖ Smoke generated from any fire shall never impede or obstruct traffic. The travel distance of hot ash shall never cause a threat of any kind. The burning of leaves, grass or pine needles shall be prohibited.
- ❖ At no time shall any person(s) burn any materials such as tires, waste, painted, stained or pressure treated lumbers, asphalt shingles, metals, plastics or any other

material which may be deemed toxic or a pollutant which may be harmful to the environment or public.

❖ If the Washington Fire Department receives any public complaint that a fire is creating a nuisance, a member of the Fire Department shall be sent out to check the site. If the burn is deemed to be a nuisance, the permit shall be revoked and the fire must be extinguished. All permits for any type of open burning shall be suspended during any state ban, which encompasses the Town.

Category I

Permittee must call before kindling a fire. A recorded line is available to see if burning is allowed for the day. Fire permits will be suspended for dry conditions, as with other permits.

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❖ A proper method for the control and extinguishment shall be provided at all times. These fires shall also follow the guidelines and requirements as set forth in this document.

❖ Category I: a fire not larger than two (2) feet in diameter, twenty-five (25) feet from a structure. This also includes chimneys, built masonry BBQs, fire rings with grates and other such devices. *Does not include Gas/Charcoal devices.* Fire pits designed to bury foods for cooking on hot coals is also included (bean holes). Category I fires can be used in the daytime (before 5 PM). They may not cause a nuisance such as excessive smoke. We may ask that the permittee eliminate/reduce smoke or the fire will need to be extinguished.

❖ All fires need to comply with safe distances from woodlands.

Source: Air Pollution Control Commission ENV-A 1000, State of NH Division of Forest and Lands, NH State RSA 227-G:4 and NH Code of Administrative Rules Res. 5600