

Falmouth Fire-EMS Operating Guideline

Burning Permits

Objective:

To provide a standard for the issuance, revocation and monitoring of burning permits in the Town of Falmouth.

General Information:

A permit is required for All open burning within the Town of Falmouth, with the exception of backyard residential cooking fires fueled by gas, charcoal or wood, in a manufactured cooking device or homemade, enclosed masonry or stone fireplace, shall require a permit from the Fire Warden (written or online) and must be obtained to the commencement of any open burning.

Guidelines:

Obtaining a Permit:

Any person requesting a burning permit for residential type burning shall be required to obtain said permit at Falmouth Police Department or online through the Maine Warden Service website or the Warden's Report website.

Restrictions on burning:

- 1.) Burning shall only be allowed in cleared areas.
- 2.) Burning shall not be allowed within 50 feet of any structure or within 50 feet of any other combustible or flammable storage or vegetation. (this may be reduced to 25 feet for minor residential burning)
- 3.) All persons or firms obtaining a burning permit shall have enough help on hand to adequately control said fire.
- 4.) All persons or firms obtaining a permit shall have water available from a hose to reach and control said fire or shall have adequately met other safeguards as set forth by the Fire Warden or designee.
- 5.) Persons maintaining said fire shall stay on-site until the fire has been completely extinguished.
- 6.) Burning shall be allowed only on days that the forest fire classification is at a Class One or Class Two as classified by the Maine Forest Service.
- 7.) Burning shall not be allowed of such size, type or location that may be objectionable to surrounding residences or occupancies.

- 8.) Failure to abide by restrictions or upon complaint of surrounding residences will be just cause to have permit revoked.

Permissible Burning:

Burning may be allowed as follows:

- 1.) Residential vegetation materials.
- 2.) Stumps, but only if burned in an approved stump burner. Encourage the requesting party to take stumps to an approved stump burning facility.
- 3.) STUMP BURNING: If they insist on burning the stump they will be given a permit but are told that if we receive any complaints with regards to smoke we will have to put it out.
- 4.) Grass lots if of controllable size.
- 5.) Residential cooking fires.
- 6.) Commercial cooking fires for a civic organization or for ceremonial purposes.
- 7.) Bon fires for a civic organization or for ceremonial purposes. Bon fires and commercial cooking fires shall be limited as follows:
 - a.) 50 feet from any structure or combustible storage.
 - b.) No more than 5 feet by 5 feet in size.
 - c.) May not last more than three hours.
 - d.) Proper protective actions set forth have been met.
 - e.) The fire is completely extinguished when completed.
 - f.) All residue is removed from the site after said material has been extinguished and cooled.

Burning Not Allowed

Burning shall not be allowed for:

- 1.) No burning shall be allowed on any public street surface.
- 2.) Disposal of industrial waste and trash, including building construction materials.

- 3.) Disposal of residential waste and trash not of a vegetation nature.
- 4.) Burning of insulation from wires.
- 5.) Disposal of hazardous material.
- 6.) Burning of any hydrocarbon or any other material that may create a dense smoke condition.
- 7.) Demolished buildings.
- 8.) Any burning for salvage purposes.
- 9.) No burning shall be allowed on any property that doesn't belong to the applicant unless said applicant has obtained written permission from the owner.
- 10.) No burning shall be allowed after 9:00 p.m. at night unless express permission is granted by the Fire Warden or designee.

These guidelines may be changed or altered by the Fire Chief at any time.