

Town of Hatfield
Fire Department
59 Main Street
Hatfield, Massachusetts 01038
413-247-9008 Fax 413-247-6414
Chief Stephen P. Gaughan

January 2016

OPEN BURNING SEASON

Open burning of brush is allowed in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from **January 15th** until **May 1st**. A Permit to Burn must be obtained from the Fire Department before any burning can take place, and burning is only allowed based upon the weather on the day you wish to burn.

There is a change in the way the Hatfield Fire Department is issuing Permits, and there is also now a \$10 permit fee. The fee is issued per burning season, per site. A site will not be required to pay greater than one permit per season, though will have to receive permission each day to burn.

In order to acquire a Permit an individual must call the Fire Department at 247-9008 any time prior to 9am on the day they wish to burn. When calling an individual should leave their name, a reliable phone number, the date they would like to burn, and the location they wish to burn.

A representative of the Fire Department will come to your site, inspect your site, issue your permit, and collect the permit fee. Please expect your site to be inspected between 9am and 10am on the date you wish to burn. *We are no longer issuing on-line permits for Open Burning, or in the Town Hall.*

The following OPEN BURNING RULES apply:

- Burning must be a minimum of 75ft from all buildings, and be no larger than 25ft long, 10ft wide and 3ft high.
- Burning may not begin until 10am and must be extinguished by 4pm
- Any open fire must be attended by an adult at all times
- A garden hose or continuous water source must be present at the side of the fire, and operational.

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

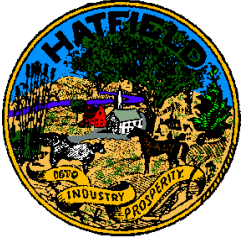
- Brush, cane, driftwood, and forestry debris from other than commercial or industrial land clearing operations.
- Agricultural materials such as fruit tree and bush pruning, raspberry stalks, and infected bee hives for disease control.
- Trees and brush resulting from agricultural land clearing.
- Fungus infected elm wood, if no other acceptable means of disposal is available.

Burning of the following materials is prohibited statewide:

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

All open burning is dependent on the weather, and air quality per the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. The availability of burning each day will be available by phoning the Fire Department at 247-9008. The Fire Department can refuse or cancel a permit at any time.

Anyone burning out side of the described regulations, or without a permit, is subject to additional fines and/ or fees.



Town of Hatfield Fire Department

59 Main Street
Hatfield, Massachusetts 01038
413-247-9008 Fax 413-247-6414
Chief Stephen P. Gaughan

OPEN BURNING HOW TO GET A PERMIT

- 1) Phone the Fire Department any time prior to 9am on the day you wish to burn.
- 2) Leave a message including Your Name, Date You Wish to Burn, Address of Burning, and a reliable telephone number.
- 3) Your Pile will be inspected between 9am and 10am on the date you wish to burn, unless other arrangements are made.
- 4) A Member of the Fire Department will inspect your pile, collect your \$10 permit fee, and issue your permit.

On additional dates you wish to burn you still have to call the Fire Department, and have your site inspected due to DPH Restrictions. Though, you do not have to pay an additional permit fee.

Only one \$10 Fee will be charged per site per season. An individual burning at different addresses throughout the season is required to obtain a permit, and permit fee, for each site.

Please feel free to contact the Fire Department Office for any assistance @ 247-9008.