



# Open Air Fires Fact Sheet

This by-law has been implemented to encourage safe burning to protect people and property from danger. Your cooperation in this regard is greatly appreciated.

June, 2009

## How do I obtain an Open Air Fire permit?

- Visit the Township Office at 2 Mille Roches, Rd. Long Sault;
- Complete the one page application form;
- Remit the \$10.00 permit fee;
- If there are no concerns or questions a permit can be processed immediately; however, if the permit is for a windrow or appears to require additional consideration, it will be forwarded to the respective Fire Official for review and will be processed within 24 hour.
- The permit will be sent to emergency dispatch so that in the event a passer-by calls the fire in, it will be investigated prior to calling the respective station for response.

## The Township of South Stormont has passed By-law No. 2009-40 to regulate Open Air Fires

The **Ontario Fire Code** prohibits all open air burning except for small confined cooking fires and other fires that have been "approved" by the Chief Fire Official. This Fact Sheet describes the regulations outlined where open air fires may be permitted under By-law No. 2009-40.

Open air fire is defined as the burning of wood, tree limbs and branches where the flame is not wholly contained. Examples include brush fires, windrows, recreational and cooking fires.

### **Recreational fires and cooking fires do not require a permit.**

**Recreational fires** are fires that burn clean, dry wood for cooking, heating enjoyment. These fires must be contained in a non-combustible container or fire pit no larger than 46 cm X 46 cm X 46 cm.

**Cooking fires** are used for the purpose of cooking.

There are three main types of Open Air Fires that require a permit under specific guidelines; they are identified as follows:

1. Fires that are **greater than** 1 cubic m. This type of fire must be 30m away from any structure or wooded area;
2. Fires for normal farm/rural practice (no larger than 6.5m X 6.5m X 2.5m in height); and
3. Windrows for land clearing. This type of fire has specific regulations ~ please contact the Township office for full details.


**Open air burning is not permitted in hamlets, villages, subdivisions or built up areas.**

## **Open air burn ban**

At certain times of the year and as conditions warrant, the Chief Fire Official may issue a complete ban on Open Air Fires. When a ban is issued ALL Open Air Fires are prohibited with the exception of actual cooking that is taking place on a grill.



## Regulations for all Open Air Fires

- The owner must allow an Officer to inspect the location or proposed location of the Open Air Fire.
  - You must burn on your own property—or have the written permission of the owner to do so.
  - Only commercially produced charcoal, briquettes, or clean, dry seasoned wood can be burned. No noxious materials are permitted.
  - There must be an effective extinguishing agent with the capability to extinguish the Open Air Fire immediately available at the fire site.
  - The Open Air Fire must be supervised and controlled by a competent person, at least 18 years old.
  - The Open Air Fire must be completely extinguished before leaving the site.
  - You cannot conduct an open air burn if the wind speed exceeds 8 kilometers (approximately 5 miles) per hour, if it is rainy or foggy, or if a smog alert has been declared.
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- The person responsible for the fire must protect adjacent properties from the potential spread of fire and ensure the open air fire does not create a nuisance;

Should the wind rise up, fog roll in, or weather change, simply call the Township office and request the date on your permit be extended.

Persons who violate the regulations in the By-law may be prosecuted under the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act*; conviction may result in a fine.

Additionally, persons who conduct or permit open air burning in contravention of By-law No. 2009-40, may be subject to **cost recovery measures including the cost of fire department vehicles**. This is calculated at a rate of \$350.00 per vehicle per hour for the fire hour and \$175.00 per vehicle, per hour for each additional half hour.

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### Be a Good Neighbour

Obtaining authorization to have an open air fire does not relieve an owner from their obligation to comply with the *Environmental Protection Act* of Ontario. While burning, it is your responsibility to ensure that smoke does not interfere with the ability of your neighbour (s) to enjoy their properties or conduct their business without disruption. Watch where your smoke travels and do not burn under restricted conditions that will carry your smoke in a direction that will disrupt adjacent roadways or properties.

This Fact Sheet has been prepared for convenience only. For a complete version of the Open Air Fire By-law, please visit our website or contact the Township Office.