



Open-Air Burning Guidelines

The Township of Oro-Medonte has not enacted a By-Law to regulate open-air burning. All open air burning is regulated under the Ontario Fire Code which states:

2.6.3.4.(1) Open-air burning shall not be permitted unless approved, or unless such burning consists of a small, confined fire, supervised at all times and used to cook food on a grill or a barbecue.

Exemption: Agricultural – working farms

ACTIVE FARMS ARE REQUIRED TO CALL THE FIRE DEPARTMENT PRIOR TO BURNING.

- Fires are to be extinguished by 6:00 pm.
- Farmers are asked to follow the General Provisions, paragraph 1, 2 and 4.

General Provisions

- You cannot leave your fire unattended or unsupervised until it is fully extinguished.
- You must have sufficient equipment readily available to control, contain and extinguish your fire.
- No slash, woodpile, construction material, plastics, or garbage shall be burned.

1. No fire shall be lit under the following conditions:

- Under weather conditions that limit the rapid dissipation of smoke
- When wind may cause unsafe conditions
- Under extremely dry or arid conditions
- Under a smog alert
- When wind will cause smoke to interfere with neighbours or roadways
- During a burning ban set by the Fire Department or Ministry of Natural Resources

Fires shall not be set in close proximity to any combustible material that may constitute a fire hazard.

2. No fire shall be lit if it will cause an adverse effect to the community.

Adverse effect is defined as one or more of the following:

- Impairment of the quality of the natural environment for any use that can be made of it
- Injury or damage to property or to plant or animal life
- Harm or material discomfort to any person
- An adverse effect on the health of any person or impairment of the safety of any person
- Rendering any property or plant or animal life unfit for use by man
- Loss of enjoyment of normal use of property
- Interference with the normal conduct of business
- Obstruction of a traveled portion of any public or private driveway or roadway

3. Residential (Non Agricultural) – The following Guidelines must be met:

- The fire area is no larger than 60 cm (24”) in diameter and contained
- The fire area is supervised at all times by an adult person
- The fire area is used to cook food or a grill or barbecue
- The fire area is within an approved area or pit designed for that use
- The fire area does not violate any other laws, by-laws, rules or regulations
- The fire area is a minimum 20 feet from any building, structure, fence and / or property line.

4. What Can I Burn?

You may burn uncontaminated dry wood or wood by-products only. *Wood by-product* is defined as wood or wood products, including tree trunks, tree branches and brush that are not contaminated with paint or stain.

You cannot burn grass clippings or leaves.

We encourage composting and recycling. For more information, pick up the Garbage and Recycling Collection Calendar at the Municipal Office.

If the fire department attends your premises on a complaint and determines that the fire does not meet the guidelines set out above, you will be asked to extinguish the fire. If you refuse, the fire department will extinguish it for you.

Refer to Fee & Charges By-law

Response to open-air burning out of control.

MTO RATES/HR

i.e. where resident not in attendance or is unwilling or unable to adequately extinguish the fire

For information or an inspection, please contact

Oro-Medonte Fire & Emergency Services - 705-487-2171.