



Open Air Burning Permit By-law Q&A

The Township of Oro-Medonte has established an Open Air Burning Permit By-law (By-law No. 2019-046) for the purpose of regulating open air fires throughout the Township.

To learn more about the By-law, including how to obtain a Burn Permit, we encourage you to review the list of frequently asked questions below.

1. Why has the Township implemented an Open Air Burning Permit By-law?

The primary reason for implementing an Open Air Burning Permit By-law is surrounding public safety. An Open Air Burning Permit process provides an opportunity for Fire and Emergency Services staff to educate the public on safety tips, and preventative information. Additionally, the permit will assist with elimination of calls to Fire Headquarters from residents requesting permission to burn. Issuance of Open Air Burning Permits also ensures that Fire and Emergency Services staff are aware of burns taking place throughout the community of Oro-Medonte.

2. What is the cost of an Open Air Burning Permit?

There is **no** cost for Open Air Burning Permits for 2019. Permits are provided free of charge for 2019.

3. How do I obtain a permit for open air burning?

To obtain your Burn Permit, please visit <https://om.burnpermits.com/> or the Administration Centre located at 148 Line 7 South.

4. Once I apply for a permit, am I required to do anything further?

Yes. Before you burn, you are required to please call (705) 242-2880 to inform Fire and Emergency Services that you are burning; follow the prompts on the telephone directory menu.

5. How is agricultural burning defined in the Open Air Burning Permit By-law?

Agricultural burning is defined as burns on working farms, golf courses, resort properties, or for clearing land for development under an approved plan of subdivision. Clean, dry seasoned wood, and brush may be burned.

6. I live on a working farm; do I require a permit for each time I have an open air burn?

No, you do not require a permit for each time you have an open air burn. Your permit will be valid from the time of issuance to December 31st of the same year. Before you burn, you are required to please call (705) 242-2880 to inform Fire and Emergency Services that you are burning; follow the prompts on the telephone directory menu.

If you would like to have a recreational fire (i.e. campfire, cooking fire) on your farm, you will require a recreational Open Air Burning Permit, which is valid from the date of issuance until December 31st of the same year.

Please note that Farmers are still required to apply for a permit and call into the automated system to register their burn on the day of each burn.

7. Is there a set time that burns on working farms must be extinguished?

Yes, any burn on a working farm must be extinguished one hour prior to sunset.

8. I live on a non-working farm and/or a hobby farm. Am I still required to obtain a permit for open air burns?

Yes, you will require a Recreational Burn Permit for open air burns.

9. Are there any restrictions for placement of recreational burns?

Yes, people wishing to have a recreational burn must abide to the following burn proximities:

- Shall not allow a fire to be larger than 2 square feet (60.96cm) in diameter, and 2 feet (60.96cm) in height from the non-combustible base of the fire.
- Shall not burn any less than 20 feet (6.1 meters) from any dwelling; and a minimum of 20 feet (6.1 meters) from any structure, hedge, tree, fence, vehicular roadway or overhead wire; and a minimum of 20 feet (6.1 meters) away from any building structure, fence, and/or property line.

10. Does the use of a chiminea require a permit under the Open Air Burning Permit By-law?

Yes, use of chimineas requires a Recreational Burn Permit. The permit is valid from the date of issuance until December 31st of the same year.

11. Does the Township have Open Air Burning Guidelines currently in place?

Yes. However, the Open Air Burning Permit By-law has replaced these guidelines.

12. Do other municipalities in the County of Simcoe have Open Air Burning Permit By-laws?

Yes, the majority of municipalities located within the County of Simcoe have Open Air Burning Permit By-laws.

13. Who do I contact if I have questions?

If you have questions regarding the Open Air Burning Permit By-law, please contact Oro-Medonte Fire and Emergency Services at 705-487-2171.