

Acton Fire Department

Anita Arnum, Fire Chief

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Acton Fire Department Reminds Residents to Get Open Burning Permit Ahead of Burning Season

ACTON — Chief Anita Arnum and the Acton Fire Department would like to share with Acton residents that open burning season begins Jan. 15 and runs through May 1. A permit is required to open burn in compliance with Massachusetts law.

Permits:

Residents can begin applying for a burn permit today by creating an account via the department's new burn permit portal: acton.firepermits.com. Once you are registered, you can apply for your burn permit. Residents will receive an email notifying them when their permit is approved.

If conditions are unsafe for burning, such as high winds or drought, a notification will be posted on the homepage.

Individuals who don't have access to a computer should call the Acton Fire Department at 978-929-7722 for assistance with their burn permit application.

Open Burning:

Burning must be done:

- Between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., from Jan. 15 to May 1
- No fires may be started after 12:00 noon
- At least 75 feet from all buildings
- Burning must be conducted without causing a hardship or nuisance to others
- The fire must be attended at all times by a responsible adult
- A means of extinguishment must be available at all time
- Issuance of this permit does not release the holder from liability for damages caused by his/her fire
- As close as possible to the source of material being burned

Residents are allowed to burn:

- Brush, cane, driftwood and forestry debris (but not from commercial or industrial land clearing)
- Agricultural materials including fruit tree and bush prunings, raspberry stalks, and infected bee hives for disease control
- Trees and brush from agricultural land clearing
- Fungus-infected elm wood, if no other acceptable means of disposal is available

Residents may not burn:

- Leaves
- Brush, trees, cane or driftwood from commercial or industrial land clearing
- Grass, hay, leaves, stumps or tires
- Construction materials or demolition debris (carpentry debris, building debris, or paper/rubbish)
- Household trash
- Absolutely no starter material such as tires, gasoline, motor oil or any other petroleum accelerant may be used
- No burning in barrels

What times are best for open burning?

- You can help prevent wildland fires by burning early in the season. Wet and snowy winter conditions help hinder the rapid spread of fire on or under the ground.
- Changing weather conditions and increased fire danger in spring can lead to many days when open burning is not allowed.
- April is usually the worst month for brush fires. When snow recedes, but before new growth emerges, last year's dead grass, leaves and wood are dangerous tinder. Winds also tend to be strong and unpredictable in April.

For more information on open burning in Massachusetts, visit Mass.gov.

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