

Composting and Recycling are Encouraged

The Ontario Fire Code (2.6.2.4.) prohibits all open air burning except for small confined cooking fires and other fires that have been “approved” by the Fire Chief. This pamphlet describes the policy by which limited open air burning may be permitted.

Open Air Burning

Any fire set outside, other than on a small confined grill, while being used to cook food. Campfires, brush/leaves, burn barrels and construction site fires are examples of open air burning.

Do you know that Open Air Burning requires a permit from the Fire Chief. The fire can't be any larger than 1.2 metres x 1.2 metres x 1.2 metres (4 ft. x 4 ft. x 4 ft). You must have a minimum of 7 metres (23 ft) clearance from any structure, hedge, fence or anything combustible.

You must stay with the fire at all times until it is completely extinguished, and you must provide a means of extinguishment.

Be mindful of your neighbour, you can not maintain a fire when the direction of the wind may cause either reduced visibility on a roadway or excessive smoke or an odour that may cause discomfort to persons in the immediate area and the fire must be out by sunset.

Prohibited Materials

The following items are prohibited materials under the Burning By-law and shall not be burnt: “industrial materials, such as automobile and truck bodies, tires, oil, grease, paint, cloth, rags, plastics, shingles, dry wall,

insulation, painted or treated wood, animal fecal deposits or manure, animal carcasses, domestic waste such as food scraps, cloth, rags, clothing and household plastics and flammable or combustible liquids or accelerants”.

Exemptions

A recreational fire (including steel or cast iron fire boxes) does not require a permit. The fire cannot be larger than 0.6 metres x 0.6 metres x 0.6 metres (2ft x 2 ft x 2 ft)) and is used for entertainment purposes.

Watch the intensity of the wind and smoke and the fire must be extinguished by 1:00 a.m.

Burning Bans

At certain times of the year and as conditions warrant, the Fire Chief may issue a complete ban on open air burning. When a ban is issued **ALL** open air burning is prohibited with the exception of actual cooking that is taking place on a grill.

Penalties

Persons violating the Ontario Fire Code may be prosecuted under the **Fire Protection and Prevention Act**. Conviction may result in a fine up to \$25,000 dollars for an individual and \$50,000 for a Corporation. Failure to comply with any provisions of this article may result in having your privilege revoked, or being charged under the Ontario Fire Code, and/or being charged \$350.00 per hour for each responding vehicle, or all the above.

The person requesting permission for Open Air Burning assumes full responsibility for conducting Open Burning in accordance with the following safety measures and common sense:

- no person shall set or maintain any fire on any land or premise without the consent of the owner of such land or premise;
- no person shall set any fire unless it is contained in a manner that will control the spread of fire;
- all open fires must be under constant watch at all times and must have on hand sufficient equipment to keep the fire under control.
- no person shall set or maintain any fire involving prohibited materials;
- no person shall set or maintain an open fire between sunset and sunrise (daylight hours only)
- no person shall set or maintain a fire that burns within an area greater than 1.2 metres x 1.2 metres x 1.2 metres (4 ft x 4 ft x 4 ft);
- no person shall set or maintain a fire, at a distance of less than 7 metres (23 feet) from any building, structure, hedge, fence or a combustible material of any kind;
- no person shall set or maintain a fire, when the direction or intensity of the wind may cause any of the following:
- impaired or reduced visibility on any vehicular roadway;
- excessive smoke or an odour of a degree or quality that may cause discomfort to persons in the immediate area of the fire; and
- the spread of fire or transfer of products of combustion to other materials, land or premise.

Open burning can cause air pollution.

Smoke and odours from open fires can aggravate respiratory conditions, soil property, reduce visibility and generally lessen the enjoyment of property. Section 14 of the Environmental Protection Act reads, in part, “Despite any provisions of this Act or the Regulations, no person shall discharge a contaminant or cause or permit the discharge of a contaminant into the natural environment that causes or is likely to cause an adverse effect”

Keep it Safe

Regardless of the type of open air fire you are having, always use caution.

- **NEVER** use flammable liquids, such as gasoline, to start your fire.
- Remove all vegetation and other material that could spread the fire.
- Maintain close supervision of children and pets.
- Keep your fire on a noncombustible surface at least 7 metres (23 feet) from structures.
- Have an adequate supply of water available to extinguish or control the fire.
- Pay attention to wind conditions and potential spark hazards.

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 obligation to ensure that smoke does not interfere with the ability of your neighbours to enjoy their properties or conduct their business without disruption. Watch where your smoke travels and do not burn when there are smog alerts, foggy conditions or wind that will carry your smoke in a direction that will disrupt adjacent roadways or properties.

Questions or Concerns

- If you have questions regarding open air burning;
- If you wish to obtain authorization to conduct open air burning;
- If you have a concern about open air burning that is being conducted in contravention of this policy:

Permits can be obtained at the:

Fire Station
165 The Queensway South
Keswick 905-476-5167

Fire Station
37 Snooks Road
Sutton 905-722-8252

or

Civic Centre
26557 Civic Centre Road
905-476-8301

This brochure has been prepared for convenience only. For a complete version of our Open Air Burning By-law, please contact the fire department at (905) 476-5167.

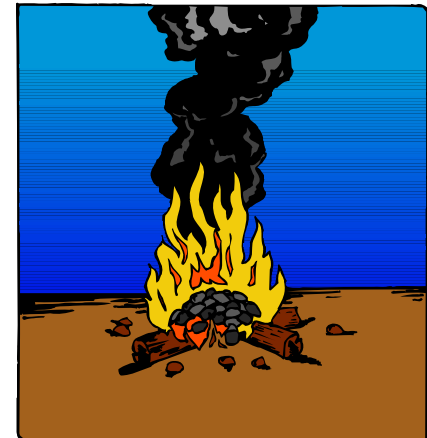
You may also visit our website at:

www.town.georgina.on.ca

**Town of Georgina
Fire Department**

Open Air Burning

**Information for Residents
of the
Town of Georgina**



GEORGINA FIRE DEPARTMENT

**Headquarters
165 The Queensway South
Keswick, ON L4P 3S9
905-476-5167**

**Administration Hours
Monday to Friday
8:30 am - 4:30 pm**