Open Burning Safety Tips/Regulations

OPEN BURNING SEASON:

Open burning season is from January 15 through April 30 each year. Open burning must be a minimum of 75 feet from all buildings and must be conducted between the hours of 10 AM and 4 PM. Dependent upon wind, weather and dryness as determined by the Georgetown Fire Department.

TO ACTIVATE PERMIT:

You can now activate your permit online (www.georgetownfd.com) on the day you desire to burn. Or, call 978-352-5757, no earlier than 9:30 AM and no later than 12 PM to see if burning will be allowed. If weather conditions change making burning unsafe, permits can be rescinded.

BURNING OF THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS IS ALLOWED:

Brush, cane, driftwood, and forestry debris from other than commercial or industrial land clearing operations. Materials normally associated with the pursuit of agriculture such as fruit tree prunings, dead raspberry stalks, blueberry patches for pruning purposes, and infected bee hives for disease control. Trees and brush resulting from agricultural land clearing. Fungus infected elm wood, if no other acceptable means of disposal is available.

BURNING OF THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS IS PROHIBITED:

Brush, trees, cane and driftwood from commercial and/or industrial land clearing operations, grass, hay, leaves and stumps, and tires. Construction material and debris.

SAFETY TIPS FOR OPEN BURNING SEASON
From the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Georgetown Fire Department

How to Safely Ignite the Fire

An adult should always be present during open burning and children and pets should be kept a safe distance away.

Use paper and kindling to start the fire and add progressively larger pieces of wood.

Parts of a leftover Christmas tree may also be used.

Never use gasoline, kerosene or any other flammable liquid to start a fire because the risk of personal injury is high.

Burn one small pile at a time and slowly add to it. This will help keep the fire from getting out of control.

Select a location away from any utility lines.
Fire Must Be Attended Until Extinguished

While the fire is burning, an adult must attend the fire until it is completely extinguished.

**Have Fire Control Tools On Hand**

Have fire extinguishment materials on hand including a water supply, shovels and rakes.

The water supply could be a pressurized water fire extinguisher, a pump can or garden hose, and be sure to test it out before igniting the fire. You do not want to find out that the water is still shut-off at the house faucet or that the hose is cracked when you need it most. In cold weather, do not shut off the hose nozzle completely to prevent freezing of the hose. If water is running through the hose it should not completely freeze.

**Watch the Wind: Be Prepared to Extinguish All Open Burning**

Be prepared to extinguish your fire if the winds pick up or weather changes. Use common sense and don’t wait for the fire department to contact you that it has become unsafe to burn. Sudden wind change is how most open burning gets out of control.

**Don’t Delay a Call For Help**

If for some reason, the fire should get out of control, call the fire department immediately. Call 911.

Use the utmost caution to prevent injury to yourself or family members or any damage by fire to your home.

People conducting illegal burning, or who allow a fire to get out of control, may be held liable for cost of extinguishing the fire, fined and even imprisoned (MGL C48 S13)

**April is the Cruelest Month**

April is usually the worst month for brush fires. When the snow pack recedes, before new growth emerges, last year’s dead grass, leaves and wood are dangerous tinder. Winds also tend to be stronger and more unpredictable during April.

**Prevent Wildfires By Burning During Wet Snowy Conditions**

Prevent permit fires from becoming wildland fires by burning early in the season. Wet and snowy winter conditions, hinder the rapid spread of fire on or under the ground. Weather conditions and increased fire danger may lead to many days when burning cannot be allowed to take place. Cover your brush piles prior to the burning season with tarpaulins that will keep the piles dry. Burning while there is a good snow cover will provide a natural barrier to fire extension.