



"WE GO WHEN DUTY CALLS"
FIRE & EMS DEPARTMENT

Town of Upton, Massachusetts
20 CHURCH STREET, P.O. BOX 453
UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01568-1535



MICHAEL BRADLEY – PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR
MICHAEL J. MARCHAND – FIRE-EMS CHIEF

BUSINESS: 508.529.3421
DISPATCHER: 508.529.3200

Recreational Fires

Outdoor Fire Pit Regulations

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING IN FULL

Fire Pits must be used appropriately; when use is altered, fire pits will be subject to Mass DEP open burning regulation. Open burning season is from January to May and requires a permit.

At single family dwellings (with the owner's permission), there are no special permits required in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the use of outdoor fire pits, cooking, or recreational fires. There are however, several requirements based on the Department of Environmental Protection regulations (DEP), the Massachusetts State Fire Laws & Codes (ML Chapter 148 & 527 CMR), the 2009 International Fire Code (IFC) and the State Fire Marshal (SFM):

- Fire must be small and manageable, no greater than 3 feet in diameter. A fire larger than 3 feet in diameter is no longer considered a cooking fire.
- All fires must be constantly attended by a competent person (18 years and older) until the fire is fully extinguished
- A garden hose, or water bucket must be available for quick extinguishment if necessary.
- Fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or any combustible materials.
- The fire pit shall be placed on a flat, noncombustible surface. Make sure the fire pit is placed away from other materials that could burn or catch fire, paying attention to overhead and side exposure areas.
- The burning of trash, painted or stained wood and construction debris is prohibited by the DEP. Never use wet or damp wood; this creates needless, irritating smoke. Always use dry seasoned wood, charcoal, or specialist fuel
- Never use an accelerant to light any fire.
- Environmental condition will limit or exclude the use of Recreational Fire such as bad air quality, or a class 4 or class 5 Fire Danger classifications determined by the State.
- Should the fire cause nuisance to neighbors or surrounding areas, Fire Department will investigate, and determine if the fire will be extinguished (MGL Chapter 148) & (527 CMR).

Burn will be halted at Fire Officer's discretion for violation of any regulation.

Open Burning

Burning Regulations & Permits

- Open Burn Season is January 15th to May 1st.
- Cost is \$10.00 & the permit is good for the season.
- You must call or activate online every day that you desire to burn.

Rules & Regulations

- Burning is allowed only on the property listed on the permit.
- You can activate your permit online or contact Upton Fire Department at 508-529-3421.
- Participants are prohibited from burning before 10:00AM. All fires must be started between 10:00AM and 12:00 Noon.
- Fires must be extinguished 100% by 4:00PM (remember to pull your pile apart). Burning after 4:00PM is prohibited.
- Fires must be at least 75 feet from any structure including sheds.
- Fires must be attended at all times by an adult (18 years and older).
- Participants must have a water supply such as a garden hose, shovels and rakes nearby.
- Participants may burn brush, cane, driftwood, and forestry debris.
- At no time are you allowed to burn grass, hay, leaves, stumps, construction materials, trash or other related items.
- Logs larger than 4 inches in Diameter are not allowed to be burned
- In case of high winds or otherwise dangerous conditions, this permit is invalid for the day. Decision can be made by the Local Fire Chief or District Warden
- Burning for the day can be cancelled if DEP states that the air quality is poor
- This permit does not release party from liability for damages.
- The Fire Department reserves the right to revoke any permit for non-compliance.

Contact Numbers

To report any out-of-control fires, contact **911 Immediately**

Questions about burning or to activate your burn permit for the day contact the Fire Station at 508-529-3421