



Brewster Fire Department

1657 Main Street
Brewster, MA 02631
Phone 508-896-7018 Fax 508-896-4245
E-mail fire_dept@town.brewster.ma.us



OPEN BRUSH BURNING RULES AND REGULATIONS

Open brush burning season starts January 15th and ends May 1st. This year the procedure for obtaining a burn permit and the daily verification call in process and phone number will change from past years. Any questions concerning same can be directed to the main fire department phone line at 508-896-7018. Please read the revised policy and procedure indicated below.

In accordance with the regulations issues by the Southeastern Massachusetts Pollution Control District regarding open burning, in order to burn in the Town of Brewster the following procedure **must** be followed:

- Permits must be obtained annually at Brewster Fire Headquarters (1657 Main Street) or via mail using the application form available on line at brewsterfire.com.
- Permits may be obtained in person Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- Persons wishing to burn must receive permission from the fire department by calling our dedicated open burning hotline at **508-896-5174** between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. each day of intended burning.
- A message indicating whether or nor burning will be allowed on that day will follow. If burning is allowed, the caller shall then leave their name, burn permit number, address, and phone number on the answering machine in order to allow the fire department the ability to cross reference all permits and requests to burn.
- Adverse meteorological conditions, including rain, fog, snow, and wind will influence the decision to allow open burning on any individual day.
- Burn permits are \$10.00 and are valid for the entire burning season.

****Weather conditions can change rapidly and the fire department will determine on a daily basis whether or not it is safe to conduct open burning. If wind speed increases or other atmospheric conditions change suddenly resulting in unsafe burn conditions permission to burn can be rescinded.**

The following rules apply to open burning:

- Burning must not cause a nuisance.
- Burning must be done with smoke minimizing starters.
- Burning must take place on the land closest to the source of the material to be burned and in accordance with Department of Environmental Protection regulations (310 CMR DEP 7.07).
- Burning must take place at the location specified on the issued permit (permits are valid for one location only).
- Burning material and location shall be no less than 75 feet from any structure.
- A responsible person **must** be in attendance **at all times** while the fire is burning.
- A hose and/or water supply as well as shovels and/or rakes for controlling the fire must be present.
- Burning shall not commence after 12:00 p.m.
- All burning material must be fully extinguished by 4:00 p.m.
- The Brewster Fire & Rescue Department reserves the right to inspect all burning sites at any time.

Burning of the following materials with a permit is allowed:

- Brush, cane, driftwood, and forestry debris from other than commercial and/or industrial land clearing operations.
- Materials normally associated with the pursuit of agriculture such as fruit tree pruning's, 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.

State open burning regulations **prohibit** the following:

- Burning of brush, trees, cane, and driftwood from commercial and/or industrial land clearing operations.
- Burning of grass, hay, leaves, stumps, tires, or furniture.
- Burning of trees.
- Burning during adverse meteorological conditions.
- Burning at landfills or refuse disposal facilities other than approved incinerators.
- Burning construction material and debris.
- Stacking, placing, or storing flammable or combustible material in a manner that the fire department may presume the material may be burned.

****Infractions of the above regulations by any violator(s) will result in revocation of the burn permit and cancellation of the open burning season for the individual violator. In certain cases fines may be levied by the fire department.**

Who may burn:

- Those who have permission from the fire department.
- Those affiliated with an official fire fighting agency who is actively engaged in training activities or combating or backfiring an existing fire.
- Those who are utilizing an open burn as a primary method of cooking.

How to conduct open burning:

- An adult must always be present during any open burning operation. All children and pets should be kept at a safe distance.
- Keep a water supply such as a garden hose, pump can, or pressurized water can available.
- Keep tools such as a rake or shovel available.
- Use paper and kindling wood to start the fire and progressively add larger pieces of wood.



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APPLICATION FOR FIRES IN THE OPEN AIR

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email address: _____

Please fill out this form and return to the Brewster Fire & Rescue Department at 1657 Main Street, Brewster MA 02631. A check for the annual burn permit fee in the amount of \$10.00 made out to the Town of Brewster shall be included with the application.

The above noted person has requested permission to set a fire for the purpose of burning brush, cane, driftwood, and forestry debris, excluding hay, leaves, stumps, or construction materials from **January 15 to May 1**.

Individuals wishing to burn must call the dedicated burn phone line at **508-896-5174 each day by 12:00 p.m.** A pre-recorded message will announce whether or not burning will be allowed on that day. If allowed, the person shall leave their name; address, phone number, and burn permit number on the answering machine.

All burning shall be conducted as follows:

- at a location greater than 75 feet from any dwelling
- between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on clear, non-windy days
- on land proximate to the place of generation
- while in constant attendance and until completely extinguished
- all fires shall be started between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. and shall be fully extinguished by 4:00 p.m.

Signature of Applicant _____

Office use only: Issued By: _____ Date: _____

Permit number: _____