



## 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



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### **OPEN BRUSH BURNING RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Open brush burning season starts January 15<sup>th</sup> and ends May 1<sup>st</sup>. 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](http://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 not 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increases or other atmospheric conditions change suddenly resulting in unsafe burn conditions permission to burn can be rescinded.**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.



# BREWSTER FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Open Burning Permit

### Regulations January 15 - May 1

Permit  
No. \_\_\_\_\_

Please read all information and complete all areas of the permit that are highlighted in **RED**. A \$10.00 payment in cash or check made payable to the Town of Brewster will be accepted.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Issue: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Type:  Cash  Check # \_\_\_\_\_

**CALL BEFORE BURNING: 508-896-5174, After 9:30 A.M. FOR AUTHORIZATION  
CALL 911 IN CASE OF EMERGENCY**

**WHO MAY BURN:**

1. Those who have PERMISSION from the Fire Department or Forest Warden.
2. Those affiliated with an official fire fighting agency who are engaged in training activities or combating or backfiring an existing fire.
3. Those who are open burning primarily for cooking.

**WHAT MAY BE BURNED:**

1. Material such as blueberry patches for pruning purposes, dead raspberry stalks, fruit pruning, and infected beehives for disease control normally associated with the pursuit of agriculture. **(Agricultural Burning Permit Only)**
2. Brush and trees resulting from agricultural land clearing. **(Agricultural Permit)**
3. Fungus-infected Elm wood if no other acceptable means of disposal is available.
4. Brush, cane, driftwood and forestry debris up to 4 inches in diameter.

**CONDITIONS THAT MUST BE MET:**

1. Burning must be at least 75 feet from all dwelling units.
2. Burning must be carried out between 10 AM and 4 PM. The fire must be completely extinguished at 4 PM.
3. Burning must take place on land proximate to the source of material being burned.
4. Burning must begin prior to 12 PM.

**HOW TO CONDUCT OPEN BURNING:**

1. An adult must be IN ATTENDANCE of the fire at all times.
2. Must have a nearby water supply such as a pressurized water pump, can or hose.
3. Fire must be completely out before the attendant leaves.
4. Shovels, rakes etc. must be on hand for control purposes.
5. Suitable starting procedures or materials such as a pressurized burner with paper or kindling. **FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS MAY NOT BE USED.**
6. Cutting brush in advance and/or covering to enhance drying, removing grass from the areas before placing material in the area of burning.
7. Recommended methods of extinguishing the fire such as burning down to coals, spreading with a shovel or rake, extinguishing with snow or water, covering with sand or soil.
8. During periods of good atmospheric ventilation and without causing a nuisance.

**PROHIBITED:**

1. Burning of brush, trees, cane and driftwood from a commercial and/or institutional land clearing operations.
2. Burning of grass, hay, leaves and stumps.
3. Burning of trees.
4. Burning during adverse meteorological conditions.
5. Burning at landfills or refuse disposal facilities other than approved incinerators.
6. Stacking, placing or storing combustible material such that the Department may presume that it will be burned.

Non-compliance with these regulations is subject to a fine up to \$500 plus the cost of extinguishment or by imprisonment of not more than 1 month or both. (MGL Chap.43 Sec.13)

**I have read and understand all the above regulations and requirements to open burn.**

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

WHITE: Fire Department Copy

YELLOW: Property Owner's Copy