

*The Corporation of the
Municipality of Huron Shores*

**Open Air Burning
Frequently Asked Questions**

*This document is intended to help answer some of the more frequently asked questions about the by-laws and provincial laws as they relate to open air burning and camp fires within the Municipality of Huron Shores. For the actual text please refer to the Municipality of Huron Shores by-law on Open Air Burning # 14-08 or the Forest Fires Prevention Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. F. 24.

Q) When is the FIRE SEASON?

A) The fire season starts on April 1st of each year and ends on October 31st of the same year. However, should the Fire Chief feel that due to dry and/or dangerous conditions, a Fire Ban should be imposed outside of fire season, they may do so.

Q) When do I need a BURNING PERMIT?

A) If you intend to burn brush, leaves, grass, piled wood waste or any other organic debris which can legally be burned, you will require a burning permit during the Fire Season. You must abide by all of the conditions on your burning permit and you are responsible to control your fire.

Q) Do I need a BURNING PERMIT to have a camp fire for warmth or cooking?

A) No. A burning permit is not required for a camp fire provided what you are having is a camp fire and not a mini bonfire to dispose of brush, etc. A campfire is a manageably sized fire contained by an enclosure constructed of non-combustible material. Generally, a campfire is no larger than 1 metre in diameter and is enclosed by rocks, bricks, concrete blocks or a truck tire rim.

Q) What is a FIRE BAN?

A) A Fire Ban is a ban on all out door fires that would require a burning permit AND a ban on all **fire works and pyrotechnics**. Fire Bans are imposed by an official of the Huron Shores Fire Department when conditions are, in the opinion of that official, sufficiently dry to impose a higher than usual risk of forest fires, or under special circumstances. Anyone who contravenes a fire ban is liable to a fine, and whatever costs are associated with extinguishing his or her unlawful fire.

Q) What is a RESTRICTED FIRE ZONE?

A) A restricted fire zone is a ban on ALL out door fires. This includes camp fires which are not within an approved camp ground and contained within an approved installation. Restricted fire zones are declared by the Ministry of Natural Resources when conditions are dangerously dry and the threat of forest fires are extreme. A restricted fire zone takes priority over a fire ban. Anyone who contravenes a restricted fire zone can expect a visit from the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ontario Provincial Police or your local fire department and is subject to heavy fines and may be liable for costs associated with extinguishing his or her unlawful fire.

Q) Can I have a campfire during a FIRE BAN?

A) Yes, provided it is only a campfire and is properly enclosed and does not pose a threat to a near-by forest or grassland. *Remember you are responsible for any fire you set. Make sure your fire is completely out before you leave it unattended.

Q) Can I have a campfire during a RESTRICTED FIRE ZONE?

A) No. Not unless you are camping in an "approved camp ground" and your campground host has provided you with an "approved installation" in which to make your campfire.

* Ref. Forest Fires Prevention Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. F. 24.