

Message from Barre Town Fire Warden Chris Day:

A "Permit to Kindle Open Fires" is required from the Town of Barre Forest Fire Warden for burning legal material such as untreated wood, brush, weeds, or grass. A fire must have at least 200 feet of separation from the burn site and any flammable materials. A permit is not required if there is snow around the burning site, but it is never legal to burn illegal material which is detailed below.

We encourage people to get outside and enjoy a nice summer night with a campfire. A campfire does NOT require a permit when it is kindled on somebody's own land. However, a campfire must be contained in a fire ring that is 3 feet in diameter and or smaller and not located within woodland, timberland, or a field containing dry grass or other flammable plant material contiguous to woodland. A person who builds a fire in or adjoining any woods shall totally extinguish such fire before leaving the burn site. Occasionally, the State of Vermont, Forest Parks and Recreation, issue statewide burn bans and when this occurs, campfires are still allowed since they do not require a burn permit.

Fires kindled for the purpose of burning brush or for other lawful purposes shall be kindled only at such times and under such conditions as will enable the parties starting them to keep them entirely under control and not create a public nuisance or hazard. Fires must be attended at all times.

The Town of Barre Fire warden may refuse to issue a permit if, in their judgment, the weather or the site conditions create a dangerous situation and or material is not legal material to be burned. Permits are issued for specific days and places to avoid problems. No standing permits are issued, we will only issue permits for two or three days. The Town of Barre Fire Warden may set specific written conditions of the permission to burn. If "special written conditions" are written on the permit, they become part of the permit and are enforceable. If an individual violates the conditions of the burn permit, especially if the violations are habitual, the Town of Barre Forest Fire Warden may choose to refuse to issue any future permits to the person. If The Town Warden feels the violation is serious enough, a burn ban may be placed on an individual's property for up to 1 year from date of violation.

Open burning of trash is never allowed in Vermont! However, each year there are still reports of illegal burning across the state. The burning of garbage, tires, rubber, plastic, waste oil, asphalt materials, asbestos, pressure-treated wood, and plywood are all prohibited. Enforcement of burns containing illegal material is NOT a fire Wardens job. The Town Fire warden may/will summon the Town Fire Department to put out the illegal material being burned. If you have a concern about the potential of illegal material being burnt, contact Dave Shepard at (802) 272-4088 or dave.shepard@vermont.gov.

Please, if you want to burn and a permit is necessary for your burn, just call. It's the Law in Vermont; it's free, it's easy: 802-498-8694. Please be patient, we get very busy in the spring and summer with permits.