



Town of Rochester

Fire Department

1 Constitution Way, Rochester MA 02770

Phone: 508-763-0540

Fax: 508-763-4892

www.townofrochestermass.com

BURNING PERMITS RULES AND REGULATIONS

OPEN BURNING: January 15th to May 1st (No Exceptions)

Permit Number _____

Will expire on _____

Permits Must be renewed every year on the original issue date of the permit.

Who may open burn:

1. Those who have a permit from their local fire department or fire warden, or
2. Those affiliated with an official firefighting agency who are engaged in training activities, or combating or backfiring and existing fire or
3. Those who are open burning primarily for cooking purposes.

How permits will be issued:

1. Fire Chief Weigel will determine whether burning is allowed each day.
2. Between 8:00am and 12:00pm on the day that you are going to burn you must call the Fire Department at 508-763-2611 then press "2", to activate your permit.
 - i. Listen to the message -If burning is permitted on that day.
 - ii. Leave only your permit number and address at the prompt
3. Your fire must be started after 10:00am and fully extinguished by 4:00pm

What may be burned:

1. Materials such as blueberry patches for pruning purposes, dead raspberry stalks, fruit tree pruning, infected beehives for disease control, normally associated with pursuit of agriculture,
2. Brush and trees resulting from agricultural land clearing.
3. Fungus-infected Elmwood if no other acceptable means of disposal is available, (disease free brush is not an acceptable starting aid)
4. Brush, cane, driftwood and forestry debris during the following time period only.

January 15- May 1

Under the following conditions statewide:

- A. Burning must be at least 75 feet from any structure.
- B. Burning must be carried out between 10 am and 4 pm.
- C. Burning must take place on land proximate to the source of material being burned.
- D. This does not apply to commercial or to industrial land for non-agricultural purposes

Agricultural Burning Permit Regulations

Agricultural Burning Permit Regulations 61, 61a, 61b and Profitable Farming Property Only

Definition of Agricultural Burning

- AGRICULTURE (for the purpose of 310 CMR 7.07) means those practices involved with the cultivation of soil for purposes of crop production and/or the raising of livestock when such crops are produced primarily for commercial foodstuffs and such livestock are raised

primarily for commercial foodstuffs or work purposes and consist of an area larger than one acre of land.

- DEP is willing to stretch its definition of agriculture to apply to nurseries. Nurseries would be limited to the same conditions and the same types of material to be burned as other agricultural sources and would need fire department approval.
- Agricultural open burning can occur all year long, with Fire Department approval, and does not have to be restricted to the January 15 through May 1^o timeframe.
- DEP has determined that open burning permits, for the destruction of agriculturally generated material, be effective two hours after sunrise with the requirement that all fires be extinguished by 4:00 p.m. the same afternoon. Rochester Fire Department will allow agricultural burning between 8:00am, and 4:00pm.

1. To obtain an initial Permit you must produce an approved Chapter Land Application from the Rochester Board of Assessors

2. Burning with an Agricultural Burning permit allows you to burn year-round between 8:00am - 4:00pm.

During normal burning season between January 15th - May 1* you must call 508-763-2611 then press 2; leave your "AG" permit number and the address that will be burning at on the recording after the beep.

1. During non-burning hours you must call 508-763-2611 and press "O" to advise the dispatcher on duty. the permit number and address. The recording is not checked during off burning season.
2. In both cases your permit activation must be called in by noon on the day you are going to burn.
3. All permits will expire one year from the issue date and must be renewed via phone or in person.

YOUR PERMIT NUMBER IS _____
AND WILL EXPIRE ON _____