

BEFORE YOU BURN GRASS AND DEBRIS

Make sure you know the rules for outdoor fires and follow safe practices. Each year dozens of residents and cottagers across Ontario lose structures and property to fires caused by careless burning. Your Fire Department would like to remind you that **outdoor burning regulations are enforced between April 1 and October 31**. If you must burn, follow these steps:

CHOOSE A SAFE TIME

Any fire is more likely to get out of control on a hot, dry or windy day. Burn during the coolest, dampest and calmest time of day, between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. Don't even consider burning when it is windy. Be aware that in the spring after the snow melts and before the grass and buds have started to grow, it is extremely hazardous to burn.

CHOOSE A SAFE SITE

If you are burning an area of grass or leaves, make sure the area is surrounded by a fireproof boundary. Roads, ditches or ploughed ground provide good barriers against fire spread. Your fire should be at least 18 metres (50 ft.) away from any structures or forest debris that might catch fire.

KEEP YOUR FIRE SMALL

Small fires can be controlled by one person using hand tools and water. Keep your piles of wood, brush, or wood by-products to be burned less than 2m (6.5 ft.) high and 2m (6.5 ft.) in diameter. Keep your fires limited to one pile burning per acre. An area of grass or leaves can be burned if the area is less than 1 ha (2 acres) and the length of the flaming edge is less than 30m (100 ft.)

STAY IN CONTROL OF YOUR FIRE

Many injuries are caused by careless use of flammable material and underestimating fire behaviour. Never use gasoline to start your fire as it is highly explosive. A responsible person must be available to tend the fire at all times, even if it is contained in an incinerator. You must have adequate tools (shovel, rake) and water on hand to control the fire if it begins to spread. Use caution around hydro poles and be aware of overhead and underground cables. Be sure your fire does not cause irritation or inconvenience to your neighbours.

PUT THAT FIRE OUT

Remember, coals can smoulder for hours and hot embers can be blown by the wind, easily setting fire to dry grass or twigs. Drown hot coals thoroughly, then cover them with sand or gravel. Every person who starts a fire is responsible to have a way to call for help if your fire gets out of control. Have a two-way radio or, better yet, a phone on hand.

TO REPORT A FIRE
Dial 911

Your municipality follows the provisions of the Forest Fire Prevention Act and the O.P.P. have the authority to lay charges if you are found negligent.

At anytime the Ministry of Natural Resources or Your Fire Department may ban or restrict outdoor burning in this area until further notice. It is your responsibility to be aware of the Rules, Regulations and By-Laws pertaining to outdoor burning in this area. Be aware that if a forest fire results because you have used fire improperly, you could be held responsible for the costs of putting out the fire and any property damage that may occur.

If you have any further questions or if you would like a description of an approved incinerator, please call the Calvin Municipal Office 744-2700