

**Town of Hatfield
Fire Department**
59 Main Street
Hatfield, Massachusetts 01038
413-247-9008 Fax 413-247-6414
Chief Robert Flaherty



January 2020

OPEN BURNING SEASON

Open burning of brush is allowed in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from January 15th until May 1st. A permit to burn must be obtained from the Fire Department before any burning can take place, and burning is only allowed based upon the weather on the day you wish to burn.

There is a change in the way the Hatfield Fire Department is issuing permits, and there is now a \$10 permit fee. The permit is issued per burning season, per site. A site will not be required to pay greater than one permit fee per season, though will need to obtain permission from the fire department each day they wish to burn.

In order to acquire a permit, an individual must call the Fire Department at 413-247-9008 any time prior to 9 AM on the day they wish to burn. When calling an individual should leave their name, a reliable phone number, the date they would like to have their site inspection and the location they wish to burn. You may also go to the department website at www.hatfieldmafire.org and click the tab labeled "Request an Inspection" and submit your request online.

A representative of the Fire Department will come to your site, inspect the site, issue your permit and collect the permit fee. Please expect your site to be inspected between 9am and 10am on the date you requested. *We are no longer issuing on-line permits for Open Burning, or in the Town Hall.*

The following **OPEN BURNING RULES** apply:

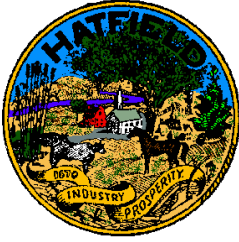
- Burning must be a minimum of 75ft from all buildings, and be no larger than 25ft long, 10ft wide and 3ft high
- Burning may not begin until 10am and must be extinguished by 4pm
- Any open fire must be attended by an adult at all times
- A garden hose or continuous water source must be present at the side of the fire and operational

Burning is allowed for the following materials, with a permit:

- Brush, cane, driftwood, and forestry debris from other than commercial or industrial land clearing.
- Agricultural materials such as fruit tree and bush pruning, raspberry stalks 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.

Burning of the following materials is prohibited statewide:

- Brush, trees, cane and driftwood from commercial/industrial land clearing operations.
- Grass, hay, leaves, stumps, and tires.
- Construction materials and debris.



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All open burning is dependent on the weather, and air quality per the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. The availability of burning each day will be available by phoning the Fire Department at 413-247-9008, checking the Department website at www.hatfieldmafire.org or the Department Facebook page at Hatfield, MA Fire Department. The Fire Department can refuse or cancel a permit at any time.

Anyone burning outside of the described regulations, or without a permit, is subject to additional fines and/or fees.

310 CMR: DEP 7.07 "Open Burning"

Once a permit has been issued, you must call and notify the duty officer between 8am and 10am that you intend to burn on that day and confirm that conditions are suitable for burning. A message may be left if no one is able to take your call.

The \$10 permit fee will be charged once per site, per season. An individual seeking to burn at different locations throughout the season is required to obtain a permit and pay a permit fee for each site.

Please feel free to contact the Fire Department Office for any assistance @ 413-247-9008