

OPEN AIR BURNING QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

GENERAL

Q: Does the Open Air Burning by-law apply in Provincial Parks?

A: Fire Departments do not have jurisdiction in Provincial Parks. We cannot enforce a Municipal by-law or the Ontario Fire Code on Provincial or Federal Lands.

Q: Are burn barrels allowed and do we need a permit for them?

A: Burn barrels are not allowed at any time. Chatham-Kent's by-law does not address burn barrels. There is a regulation in the Ontario Fire Code that does not allow them in the province of Ontario.

Q: When do you require an open air burn permit?

A: The only time an approved open air burn permit is not required is when the open burn is a fire pit and meets the by-law size and distance requirements or is a barbeque.

Q: Why do we need a by-law for open air-burns if they are regulated in the Ontario Fire Code?

A: The by-law is an educational tool that gives standardized numbers to meet the requirements for fire safety during open air burns. The Ontario Fire Code is not specific and leaves room for various interpretations. The Municipal by-law gives specific sizes and distance for both the public and Municipal officials to adhere to.

FIRE PITS

Q: Can I have a fire pit in my back yard?

A: Yes, if it can meet the distance restrictions in the by-law. The fire pit can be no closer than 25 feet to combustibles and property lines. See the by-law for all the regulations.

Q: Are "licensed recreational camps" exempt from the by-law for fire pits?

A: No. They are exempt from the 25 foot distance from property lines and buildings for fire pits. The by-law states fire pits in a "licensed recreational camp" must be a safe distance from combustibles.

Q: What is a "licensed recreational camp"?

A: A "Licensed Recreational Camp" means any Summer Camp, Tourist Camp or Trailer Camp as defined in Chatham-Kent By-law Number 367 – 2002.

Q: How large of fire are we allowed to have in a fire pit?

A: The maximum dimensions of the pit are 2 feet by 2 feet and can be no deeper than 16 inches. The material being burned must be no larger than the pit.

OPEN AIR BURNING QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: What time is open air burning in a fire pit permitted?

A: Between 12 noon and 1 a.m.

Q: What types of fuels are allowed to be burned in fire pits?

A: Charcoal, briquettes, or clean seasoned wood are the only fuels allowed to be burned.

Q: Are chimeneas allowed?

A: No. They do not have a grill on them and are not designed to be used for cooking purposes only, which is the criteria allowed by the Ontario Fire Code.

OPEN AIR BURNS REQUIRING PERMITS

Q: What restrictions are there for getting an open air burning permit?

A: A permit will only be issued for someone that has a rural 911 address (green number sign). No permits will be issued for urban areas. The product being burned must be part of normal farm practice (burning of diseased trees, clearing of ditch banks, fence rows, etc.).

Q: Can we get an open air burning permit to burn down a house?

A: The Chatham-Kent Fire Department will allow a barn or house on a farm to be burned with a permit, only if the hazardous products have been removed from inside and outside the building and disposed of properly. Such items as tires, asphalt shingles, vinyl or aluminium siding, furniture and other similar items are classed as hazardous products.

This type of open air burning will only be allowed on a farming operation. It is required that a pit is to be dug and the house demolished and put in the pit. All the requirements of the by-law must be met.

Q: In an open air burn; how large is the fire permitted to be?

A: The station chief, for your response area, will determine how large a specific open air burn will be. The size will be dependent upon the distances from combustibles, power lines, roadways and any other applicable fire safety issues.

Q: What time is open air burning of this kind permitted?

A: Burning with an approved open air permit is only allowed after sunrise and must be extinguished before sunset.

Q: How long is the open air burning permit valid for?

A: A permit is valid for six months. If the open air burning permit expires a new application must be submitted and approved by a fire official.

OPEN AIR BURNING QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: How can I apply for an open air burning permit?

A: An open air burning application can be found:

- on our municipal website at www.chatham-kent.ca
- our fire website at www.ckfire.com
- at any of the Municipal Help Centres across the Municipality.

An application is to be completed and submitted to your Station Chief. At least seven days are required to obtain approval. All open air burning permits must be approved by a fire official.