



Fairfax Fire Department

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April 8, 2020

Notice regarding open burning in the Town of Fairfax

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources issued a memorandum “To reduce the risk of wildland fires during COVID-19 emergency, open burning is not advised”.

This is not a State-wide Burn Ban. This is a suggestion, intended to minimize Fire Department responses for out of control fires.

The VT Department of Forest, Parks, and Recreation will only impose a State-wide Burn Ban if weather conditions dictate. A Fire Danger Forecast is sent to Local Fire Wardens on a daily basis.

By State Statute it is the local Town Fire Wardens, that have the authority to decide if they will issue burn permits or do a local burn ban, based on local conditions.

At this time the Town of Fairfax will continue to issue burn permits, based on the Daily Fire Danger Forecast, Local conditions, and based on the materials to be burned and location of intended fire. Permits will be issued on a case by case basis.

Based on our history of citizens burning in a safe manor, we feel that it is not necessary at this time to stop all open burning.

Burning of a small pile of tree branches in the middle of a vegetable garden on a calm day, has minimal risk of causing an out-of-control brush fire. Burning of tall standing grass in a meadow, would have a higher risk of spreading out-of-control, and as such, this type of burning will be avoided.

Permits will be issued for one day at a time, as the status of allowing open burning is subject to change.

Burn permits will not be issued when the Fire Danger Level is elevated to “High”. Permits will also not be issued for larger controlled burns that have a potential to spread out-of-control.

It is our intent to minimize the potential for the Fire Department being called to extinguish out-of-control fires.

As open burning is still permitted, please do not call 911 to report an “Illegal Burn”, if you witness your neighbor burning a pile of brush in their garden or enjoying a backyard campfire with their family. Please take a moment to verify that a fire is out of control before calling 911.

Reporting safe, “controlled burning” as an “Illegal Burn” or “out-of-control fire” will result in the Fire Department having to respond to additional calls, increasing the risk of exposure to COVID-19.

Please visit the Town of Fairfax Web Page, for information regarding Open Burning and Burn Permits.

<https://www.fairfax-vt.gov/openburning>