

TOWN OF HAMPDEN MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN HOUSE
625 MAIN STREET
HAMPDEN, MA01036



**HAMPDEN FIRE
DEPARTMENT**
Tel: (413) 566-3314
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January 1, 2018

The "open burning" season will begin January 15, 2018 and continue through May 1, 2018. Burning is only allowed with a permit. In the Town of Hampden a permit may be obtained on-line at hampden.org or by calling the fire department non-emergency phone at 566-3314.

Using the website is preferable as it decreases the call volume handled by the emergency dispatcher. Additionally the website allows you to schedule your burning days in advance or you can see what our prediction is for issuing permits the next day.

Open burning is regulated statewide for public health and public safety reasons. Permits will not be issued on days that pose a forest fire hazard or on days of poor air quality or air pollution conditions that put people's respiratory health at risk. We always err on the side of caution when any of these conditions are questionable. We strongly urge you to try to do any burning when there is snow on the ground in order to decrease the chance of wild fire.

A permit is good for only one day and allows Homeowners to burn forestry debris - not including grass, hay, leaves or stumps. A commercial or business entity is not eligible for an open burning permit with the exception of commercial agriculture. Other limitations include that burns be conducted only between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.; No less than 75 feet away from all dwellings; and on your own property and as close as possible to the source of material(s) to be burned. It is never allowable to burn grass, hay, leaves, stumps or tires or construction or demolition debris.

Changing weather conditions and increased fire danger in spring can lead to many days when open burning is not allowed. April is usually the worst month for brush and wild fires. When snow recedes, but before new growth emerges, last year's dead grass, leaves and wood are dangerous tinder. Winds also tend to be strong and unpredictable. Please do not wait until April!

Burning without a permit or in noncompliance of the requirements will result in a fine.

Let's have a safe burning season!

Respectfully,

Hampden Fire Department