

# BACKYARD BURNING QUICK GUIDE

*Improper backyard or bonfire burning releases toxic compounds to the air that will impact you, your family and your neighbors' health.*



## MATERIALS ACCEPTABLE FOR BURNING

- Campfire wood.
- Charcoal.
- Clean pallets.
- Brush (<5 inches in diameter).
- Clean lumber scraps (homeowner, at primary residence).



## MATERIALS NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR BURNING

- Plywood and painted, stained, glued or otherwise treated wood.
- Construction/demolition debris.
- Tires and plastics
- Household trash.
- Used oil and hazardous waste.
- Plastic- or wax-coated paper or cardboard, and magazines.

Additionally, brush and clean lumber scraps cannot be transported off-property for burning elsewhere.



*In the last five years, people in New Hampshire who violated the Open Burning law have paid fines ranging from \$1,000 to \$4,000 dollars.*

**Don't be one of them!**

NHDES Air Resources Division  
(603) 271-1370  
[www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov)



# PREVENT FOREST FIRES

*It is unlawful to...*

- Burn brush or other materials when the ground is not covered by snow without a written fire permit from the Forest Fire Warden.
- Burn in an outdoor fireplace without a fire permit.
- Kindle certain categories of fires between 9 AM and 5 PM except when raining. When raining, a fire permit is still required. Please check with your local Forest Fire Warden to determine allowable burning times.
- Kindle a fire for any purpose on land of another without written permission of the owner or owner's agent and a written permit from the Forest Fire Warden of the town, except in authorized recreational areas where suitable fireplaces are approved by the Forest Fire Warden.
- Fail to totally extinguish any fire before leaving it.
- Discard matches, cigarettes or other burning substances from vehicles or otherwise.
- Throw any flammable waste material on, near, or adjacent to a public highway or private way in or near woodlands.
- Fail to report a forest or brush fire or fail to respond to a Forest Fire Warden's call for assistance.

Violations of the law (RSA 227-L) are subject to the following penalties:

**Violation** – May be fined up to \$1,000

**Misdemeanor** – May be fined up to \$2,000, or imprisoned up to one year or both.

Report all Fires to your Local Fire Department.



For fire permits or information on local open burning restrictions, contact your local Fire Warden or other authorized agent.

**Your Efforts to Help Protect our Woodlands are Appreciated**

Director, Division of Forests and Lands

(603) 271-2217

[www.nhdf.org](http://www.nhdf.org)