

**OPEN BURNING**  
**IN MASSACHUSETTS**

Unless open burning is being conducted for the purpose of:

- combating or backfiring an existing fire by persons affiliated with an official firefighting agency; or
- is being used primarily for cooking purposes

The following conditions **MUST BE MET**:

- (1) Possession of a valid permit from the local fire department or fire warden. NOTE:
  - Such permits may not be valid for more than two days from the date of issuance
  - A written record must be maintained for each permit including the name and address of the person receiving the permit, the date of permit issuance, and the location and type of materials to be burned
  - Such records must be available for public inspection
- (2) Open burning must be conducted:
  - during periods of good atmospheric ventilation\* (consult DEP's regional office as needed)
  - without causing a nuisance\*
  - with smoke minimizing starters if used

Open burning permits may be issued for:

- (a) Training or research in fire protection or prevention with specific approval by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).
- (b) Activities associated with the normal pursuit of agriculture\*\* which have been determined by DEP as necessary.
- (c) Open burning of brush and trees resulting from agricultural land clearing operations.
- (d) Disposal of brush, cane, driftwood and forestry debris - excluding grass, hay, leaves, and stumps. All such open burning must be conducted:
  1. from January 15 to May 1 of each year
  2. on land proximate to the place of generation
  3. at a location greater than 75 feet from any dwelling, and
  4. between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM

\* As determined by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

\*\* Agriculture is defined as the raising of crops and livestock for commercial foodstuffs.

IMPORTANT: No open burning permits for the burning of brush, cane, driftwood, and forestry debris may be issued in the following communities:

Arlington	Cambridge	Fall River	Malden	Springfield
Belmont	Chelsea	Holyoke	Medford	Waltham
Boston	Chicopee	Lawrence	New Bedford	Watertown
Brookline	Everett	Lowell	Newton	West Springfield
			Somerville	Worcester

UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES THE FOLLOWING IS PROHIBITED:

1. Burning of brush, trees, cane and driftwood from commercial or institutional land clearing operations.
2. Burning of grass, hay, leaves, and stumps.
3. Burning of tires.
4. Burning during adverse meteorological conditions.
5. Burning at landfills or refuse disposal facilities other than DEP approved incinerators.
6. Stacking, placing or storing combustible material such that DEP may presume that it will be burned.

For further information or assistance contact:

DEP (Department of Environmental Protection)

Bureau of Waste Prevention

1 Winter Street

Boston, MA 02108

(617) 292-5500 or (617) 292-5953 Fax (617) 292-5778

Web Site: [www.state.ma.us/dep](http://www.state.ma.us/dep)

#### DEP Regional Air Quality Offices

##### Southeast Region

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##### Central Region

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##### Northeast Region

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##### Western Region

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