



Dennis Fire Department – Open Fire Policy- Cooking Fires, Fire Pits, Camp Fires

The Massachusetts Fire Prevention Regulations – 527 CMR and 310 CMR Department of Environmental Protection and MA General Laws Chapter 48 Section 13: - state the following regarding open burning in fire pits, campfires etc.:

MGL Chapter 48 S- 13- Persons 18 years of age or older may, without a permit, set, maintain or increase a reasonable fire for the purpose of cooking, upon sandy or gravelly land free from living or dead vegetation or upon sandy or rocky beaches bordering tidewater, if the fire is enclosed within rocks, metal or noncombustible material.

- ✓ Fires must be on your own property or with permission of property owner.
- ✓ No Fires are allowed on Town of Dennis property including beaches.
- ✓ Bonfires are not allowed. Fire must be reasonable in size and primarily for cooking purposes.
- ✓ Fire should be conducted with clean dry wood only. Charcoal or Duraflame logs are a good alternative. Burning of rubbish, building debris, wet wood, pressure treated or painted wood is to be avoided
- ✓ The use of flammable or combustible liquid accelerants is dangerous and not permitted.
- ✓ Fires must be primarily used for the purposes of cooking. See MGL above.
- ✓ Fire pits should be 25 feet from structures or other combustible materials, open fires not contained shall be 75 feet from structures.
- ✓ Fire pits and chimineas are not allowed on combustible decks.
- ✓ Do not leave fire pits unattended. MA regulations require an adult to be present at all times.
- ✓ Have fire extinguishing aids available at all times.
- ✓ Fires cannot cause a nuisance to any neighbors or persons. If the fire department receives a complaint regarding your fire, (smoke, smell, ash or sparks) you may be instructed to extinguish it. Many people are sensitive to contaminants or have respiratory illnesses and may be irritated by the smoke or smell from your fire. As a good measure, speak to your neighbors first to avoid any problems. Repeated complaints may result in penalties.

Burning season for brush only, is January 15 to April 30 each year. Burning can be conducted only with a permit from the Fire Department. See the Town of Dennis Web Site for Brush Burning Regulations.

*John J Donlan – Assistant Chief – Fire Prevention
Dennis Fire Department, 883 Main Street West Dennis, MA 02670
508-398-0363*