



# SEEKONK MASSACHUSETTS

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## Open Burning 2022

Burning Season / Burning Permits

**PLEASE CALL (508) 336-8510 OPTION 6 AFTER 8:30 AM  
ON THE DAY YOU WISH TO BURN TO CONFIRM THAT BURNING IS ALLOWED ON THAT DATE**

**Due to the COVID-19 restrictions. The Public Safety Complex is closed to the public.  
Burning permits will not be **ISSUED** in person. No exceptions.**

**Beginning Saturday, January 15th 2022**

You may obtain a burning permit online by following this link **Open Burning Permit**  
Please be aware that while the online application process is available 24 hours a day / 7 days a week,  
the Fire Department will only be processing these permits between the hours of 8:00 am - 12:30 pm

Please follow these steps:

Please apply via the Customer Service Portal

Sign in, and click on the "Apply" tab

Under the "Permits" menu, select "All"

Scroll down to the "Burning Permit" section or Type "Fire" in the search bar

Click "Apply"

Follow the required prompts:

Adding Location: Search for your address in the search bar, then click "add", then Click "Next"

Permit Type selected is "Burning Permit", click "Next"

Confirm your address is correct, then click "Next"

Read the Open Burning Regulations, and type your full name to confirm you have read the regulations, then click "Next"

There are no required documents- Click "Next"

Confirm that all of the information entered is correct, and click "submit"

On the next page you will see "Pay Now"- click on this link to process the payment for the burning permit

Select your choice of payment- Check/ Credit-Debit Card

Enter your payment information

Click "Pay Now"

You will receive a payment confirmation

Your permit **will** be sent for review. Once it has been reviewed, you will receive an email confirming that your permit has been issued and valid

**\*Permits will only be approved and Issued during the business hours of Monday-Friday 8:00-12:30 pm\***

**\*Permits will not be approved or issued on weekends or Holidays\***

### **Please note:**

There is an online payment processing fee, which is part of the online permitting system. The

Town of Seekonk does not charge or collect fees for purchasing a burning permit online.

This fee is part of the online permitting process.

**Online payment processing fees:**

checks = \$1.50 flat fee

credit cards = 2.95% fee (\$0.30 per permit)

## **NO PERMITS WILL BE ISSUED PRIOR TO THE START OF OPEN BURNING SEASON**

### **Open Burning Permits & Restrictions**

Open burning is allowed from mid-winter to early spring across most of Massachusetts. Contact your local fire department to obtain an open burning permit in advance. State fire wardens determine each day whether conditions are safe for open burning. Weather and air quality can change rapidly, especially in the spring, and fire departments can rescind permits when that happens.

#### **Open burning must be done:**

- Between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. **from January 15 to May 1**
- At least **75 feet from all buildings**
- As close as possible to the source of material being burned
- When air quality is acceptable for burning. Call the MassDEP Air Quality Hotline at (800) 882-1497 or visit Mass Air Online to find out if it is.

### **What can I burn?**

#### **You are allowed to burn:**

- Brush, cane, driftwood and forestry debris (but not from commercial or industrial land clearing)
- Agricultural materials including fruit tree and bush prunings, raspberry stalks, and infected bee hives for disease control
- Trees and brush from agricultural land clearing
- Fungus-infected elm wood, if no other acceptable means of disposal is available

#### **You may not burn:**

- Leaves
- Brush, trees, cane or driftwood from commercial or industrial land clearing
- Grass, hay, leaves, stumps or tires
- Construction materials or demolition debris
- Household trash

### **How do I safely start & tend a fire?**

- An adult should always be present and attend the fire until it is completely extinguished.
- Keep children and pets a safe distance away.
- Burn away from any utility lines.
- Use paper and kindling to start the fire and add progressively larger pieces of wood. Pieces of a discarded Christmas tree make good kindling. To avoid the risk of personal injury, never use gasoline, kerosene or other flammable liquid as a fire starter.
- Burn one small pile of material at a time and slowly add to it. This helps keep the fire from getting out of control.
- Keep fire extinguishing materials handy. These should include a water supply, shovels and rakes. The water supply can be a pressurized water fire extinguisher, pump can, or garden hose. Test the water source before lighting the fire.
- Put the fire out if winds pick up or the weather changes. Use common sense. Don't wait for the fire department to tell you that it has become unsafe to burn. Most fires get out of control during sudden wind changes.
- If the fire gets out of control, call the fire local department right away to prevent personal injury and property damage.
- You could be held liable for firefighting costs, as well as face fines or jail time, if you burn illegally or allow a fire to get out of control (see M.G.L. c.48, s.13).

### **What times are best for open burning?**

You can help prevent wildland fires by burning early in the season. Wet and snowy winter conditions help hinder the rapid spread of fire on or under the ground.

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 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 in April.

### **What other types of outdoor fires are allowed?**

With the fire department's approval and supervision, a community may schedule:

Outdoor cooking is allowed year-round in all communities and is not subject to open burning limits.