



**TOWN OF SALEM**  
**FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS**  
**152 MAIN STREET**  
**SALEM, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03079**  
BUSINESS: (603) 890-2200 FACSIMILE: (603) 893-3789  
[WWW.TOWNOFSALEMNH.ORG](http://WWW.TOWNOFSALEMNH.ORG)

**General Outside Burning Rules**

**THESE RULES ARE BEING PROVIDED AS A COURTESY OF THE SALEM FIRE DEPARTMENT. THEY ARE NOT MEANT TO BE ALL-INCLUSIVE. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONSULT RSA 227-L AND/OR YOUR PERMIT.**

1. The permittee must be at least 18 years old, and the legal landowner or have the landowner's written approval to obtain a valid burning permit for **ALL** kindled outside fires within the Town of Salem.
2. If you have been issued a valid seasonal permit, you **must** call the Salem Fire Department at **890-2200** prior to lighting the fire to receive authorization to burn.
  - Please have your permit number ready.
  - On nice days, please do not **call** until **after 4:30 PM** to receive authorization to burn, as the decision to allow burning on a particular day does not generally occur until that time. Burning is allowed between **5 PM and midnight**.
  - On days that it is actively raining or the ground is snow covered, you may call earlier to receive authorization to burn until midnight.
  - Small cooking fires **may** be allowed during the day when it's not raining...this is on a case by case basis, at the discretion of the Warden or his designee.
  - Exceptions can be made to the midnight rule on a case-by-case basis.
3. The fire must be at least 50 feet away from all buildings, decks, sheds, etc.  
**Exception:** Outdoor fire appliances such as a chiminea must be no closer than 25 feet.
4. **Only** clean, untreated and non-contaminated wood may be burned. (**NO** construction debris, composite materials, paper, household waste, rubber, plastic, leaves, pressure treated or painted wood, etc.).
5. Brush and wood cannot exceed 5 inches in diameter.
6. **DO NOT** use accelerants (gasoline, oil, etc.) to start the fire.
7. The permittee must have some type of proper fire extinguishing equipment on hand to maintain control of the fire at all times.
8. The permittee shall constantly attend the fire until it is completely extinguished.
9. The fire must be **completely extinguished** (no smoke, heat or flames) prior to the permittee abandoning the area. A buried fire is not considered extinguished.
10. **PLEASE** keep all fires small and under control. If your fire causes any property damage, you will be responsible for the cost of the firefighting effort as well as being held liable for the damage that occurred.
11. If a fire officer is called to investigate your fire, he may order your fire to be extinguished or darkened down. If you are found to be in violation of any of the parameters of your permit according to RSA 227-L, your permit may be summarily revoked. Also, if an abutter calls because the smoke is bothering them, you may be asked to extinguish the fire (State of NH Department of Air Resources Rules).