

## Suggested Guidelines for Conducting Open Burning:

### - Starting the Fire

- Before placing materials to be burned in an area, remove all grass.
- Before burning brush, dry by cutting in advance or covering.

Start the fire using either small amounts of kerosene, #2 fuel (no gasoline), or a pressurized burner which uses diesel fuel.

### - While Burning

Someone must attend the fire until completely extinguished. Have available a water supply, such as a pressurized water pump can or hose, and shovels or rakes for controlling the fire.

### - Extinguishing the Fire

Burn the fire down to coals and spread the coals with snow, water, sand or soil.

All open burning must be conducted during periods of good atmospheric ventilation\* without causing a nuisance\*.

\* as determined by DEP

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## OPEN BURNING: REQUIREMENTS & RESPONSIBILITIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

Open burning, the burning of any material out-of-doors, releases large amounts of carbon monoxide and other gaseous and solid substances directly into the atmosphere. Open burning causes air pollution and aggravates respiratory problems. Under poor atmospheric conditions, open burning creates a smoke and odor nuisance — as well as a health threat — to area residents, especially in densely populated areas. For these reasons, open burning is restricted in Massachusetts.

**You must obtain a PERMIT for open burning from your local fire department or fire warden.**

The only times a permit is not necessary are:

- to combat or backfire an existing fire by persons affiliated with an official firefighting agency, or
- for cooking purposes.