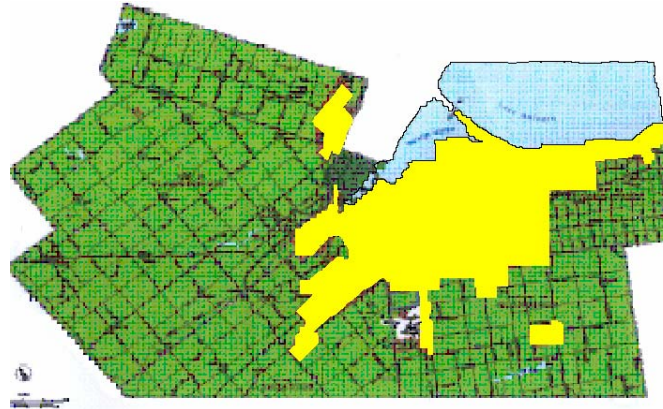




## Open Air Burning Questions and Answers

## CITY OF HAMILTON URBAN/RURAL BOUNDARIES (as per City of Hamilton Official Plan)

# CITY OF HAMILTON OPEN AIR BURNING REGULATIONS

- Q. How are the rural or urban areas of the City designated?**
- A. The City of Hamilton is divided into rural and urban areas as determined and set out in the Official Plan for the City of Hamilton.
- Q. Who is allowed to conduct open air burning?**
- A. Only those persons named on the burning permit can conduct open air burning.
- Q. What types of materials am I allowed to burn?**
- A. You can only burn clean wood and brush. All other materials must be disposed of through regular waste pick up or taken to one of the City's waste transfer stations.
- Q. What clearances are required?**
- A. Open air burning must be conducted a minimum of 30m away from buildings and other combustibles.
- Q. Can I burn material on any day that I choose and at any time of the day?**
- A. Burning can take place on any day of the year unless your permit clearly specifies specific dates. The only exceptions to this are on days that are declared Smog Alert/Smog Advisory days and on days when wind conditions will cause smoke to be an annoyance to nearby roadways and properties. In the interest of public safety, the Chief Fire Official reserves the right to temporarily issue a ban on open air burning should conditions warrant such action. Burning can be conducted at any time of the day or evening. There are no set time parameters.
- Q. What can happen if I burn without a permit or violate the guidelines as identified on the permit?**
- A. You can be prosecuted for failure to obtain a permit or for contravening the guidelines. In addition, failure to comply with the guidelines may result in your permit being revoked. You may also be held liable for costs incurred as the result of an emergency response.
- Q. Do the open air burning regulations apply to farms?**
- A. Yes, farm properties are required to have an open air burning permit. For additional information refer to our pamphlet entitled "Open Air Burning Regulations for Farms"



Urban Area   
Rural Area 

If your property is located close to the urban/rural border, contact any Fire Prevention Office or one of the Municipal Service Centres to determine if you are in the rural area so that you can obtain an open air burning permit.

If you have any additional questions regarding open air burning, contact Hamilton Emergency Services – Fire, Fire Prevention Division at **(905) 546-2424, ext. 1380** weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Additional information can also be found on our website at <http://www.hamilton.ca/Fire>  
Email: [fire\\_department@hamilton.ca](mailto:fire_department@hamilton.ca)



For any emergency  
In Hamilton dial

# 911

## City of Hamilton By-Law 02-283 Open Air Burning By-law



On October 9, 2002, Hamilton City Council passed the Open Air Burning By-law which came into force on January 1, 2003. Highlights of the By-law are as follows:

- Open air burning is permitted only in areas of the City designated as rural as per the City of Hamilton Official Plan.
- A permit is required for all open air burning.
- Open air burning permits cost \$10 and are valid for the calendar year.
- All fires must be kept to a maximum size of 2m x 2m x 1m high (unless otherwise approved by the Chief Fire Official) and be carried out a minimum of 30m away from buildings and other combustibles.
- All vegetation around the burn area must be removed to a distance that is equal to twice the height of the burn pile.
- Recreational campfires must be kept to maximum size of 0.6m in diameter, must be confined (steel tire rim, bricks, stone) and shall be carried out a minimum of 3m away from buildings and other combustibles.
- The use of a chiminea or outdoor fireplace is deemed open air burning and requires a permit (only permitted in rural areas).
- Only the burning of clean wood and brush is permitted.
- The fire must be attended to and supervised at all times.
- All fires must be completely extinguished at the end of each working/burning day. There are no set time frames as to when burning can occur.
- Equipment capable of extinguishing the fire is to be on site at all times.
- Open air burning is not permitted on days declared as Smog Alert/Advisory days.

## Obtaining an Open Air Burning Permit for Burn Piles Larger than the Standard Size

The Open Air Burning By-law allows for the Chief Fire Official to approve burn piles that are larger than the standard size and also to impose conditions for those burns. For these exceptions, the main focus of Hamilton Emergency Services – Fire has been, and will continue to be, ensuring that the burn is done safely, both in terms of property protection and the safety of the individual conducting the burn.

Visit one of the three Fire Prevention Division Offices to obtain a permit for a larger size fire. (A permit for a larger fire **cannot** be obtained from a Municipal Service Centre or from firefighters in the fire stations listed). Fire Prevention Division Staff will discuss your proposal with you and will be looking for additional information and a site plan drawing showing:

- location of the fire on your property
- proximity of the fire to property lines, structures and roadways
- type of material to be burned and the number of burn piles
- method to extinguish the fire if necessary
- proposed dates for the burn
- access to the burn location (if required by emergency response crews)

If necessary, Fire Prevention Division staff may conduct an inspection of the site for the proposed burn. Once an agreement has been reached, an Open Air Burning Permit will be issued along with all applicable guidelines that must be adhered to. These guidelines may be attached to the permit.

## Obtaining an Open Air Burning Permit for Fire Extinguisher Training

An open air burning permit must be obtained from one of the locations listed and no fee will be charged for the permit. The permit holder must comply with all guidelines as listed on the back of the permit

## Obtaining an Open Air Burning Permit for Strike/Picket Lines

Providing it can be done safely, Hamilton Emergency Services – Fire will issue open air burning permits for strike/picket lines in both the urban and rural areas of the City. These permits will only be issued by one of the three Fire Prevention Division Offices and not by the Municipal Service Centres or firefighters in the stations. Permits cost \$10 for rural areas and are subject to the current inspection fee in urban areas. Picket line fires must comply with all applicable guidelines as listed on the permit. In addition the following will apply:

- only one drum shall be used at each location
- fire is to be confined to the drum
- storage of wood is to be 1m away from the barrel
- drums are to be kept away from buildings, vehicles and other combustible material adjacent to the property
- the burn permit is valid only for the duration of the strike

## Where to Obtain an Open Air Burning Permit

Permits can be obtained from one of the following locations, Monday to Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm:

- **Fire Prevention – West Office**  
Station 29: 189 King Street East, Dundas
- **Fire Prevention – Mountain Office**  
Station 21 – 365 Wilson Street, Ancaster
- **Fire Prevention – East Office**  
Station 12 – 199 Highway #8, Stoney Creek,
- **Fire Station 12** - 199 Highway #8, Stoney Creek
- **Fire Station 21** - 365 Wilson Street, Ancaster
- **Fire Station 23** – Memorial Square, Dundas
- **Fire Station 24** – 252 Parkside Drive, Waterdown
- **Glanbrook Municipal Service Centre**  
4280 Binbrook Road, Glanbrook
- **Ancaster Municipal Service Centre**  
300 Wilson Street East, Ancaster
- **Dundas Municipal Service Centre**  
60 Main Street, Dundas
- **Stoney Creek Municipal Service Centre**  
777 Highway #8, Stoney Creek
- **Flamborough Municipal Service Centre**  
163 Dundas Street (Hwy #5), Waterdown

