

# SOUTH PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

## STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

<b>Policy #:</b>	5.141	<b>Effective Date:</b>	7-26-2007
<b>Title:</b>	Burning Permits	<b># of pages:</b>	4
<b>Category:</b>	Administration	<b>Classification:</b>	Green

1. **PURPOSE:** To establish standards concerning the issuance, revocation and monitoring of burning permits in the City.

2. **POLICY:**

**Permit Required:** All open burning within the city, with the exception of backyard residential cooking fires fueled by gas, charcoal or wood, in a manufactured cooking device or homemade, enclosed masonry or stone fireplace, shall require a written permit from this department and must be obtained to the commencement of any open burning.

### **Obtaining a Permit:**

- 1.) Any person requesting a burning permit for residential type burning shall be required to obtain said permit at Central Station.
- 2.) Anytime someone requests a burning permit we shall try to discourage it because of the smoke conditions it creates and the complaints of the neighbors with regards to persons suffering from emphysema and the ozone levels in the air. Inform the applicant that if we have a complaint filed we will respond to extinguish the fire.
- 3.) Suggest the following options:
  - a.) Try to convince them to bag it or put it out at big rubbish clean up.
  - b.) Hire a chopper.
  - c.) If the person insists on burning then have them comply with the following:
- 4.) At any time that burning is requested of such a type that the officer on duty is questionable of the type, size and location, no permit shall be issued until said site has been inspected by this department. If the district inspector deems that burning may be allowed a permit may be issued.
- 5.) A copy of all permits shall be posted in the dispatch room and dispatchers will insure all on-duty officers are notified of any permit issued within their districts.

### **Restrictions on burning:**

- 1.) Burning shall only be allowed in cleared areas.
- 2.) Burning shall not be allowed within 50 feet of any structure or within 50 feet of any other combustible or flammable storage or vegetation. ( this may be reduced to 25 feet for minor residential burning)
- 3.) All persons or firms obtaining a burning permit shall have enough help on hand to adequately control said fire.
- 4.) All persons or firms obtaining a permit shall have water available from a hose to reach and control said fire or shall have adequately met other safeguards as set forth by the Fire Chief or his designee.

- 5.) Persons maintaining said fire shall stay on-site until the fire has been completely extinguished.
- 6.) Said persons shall notify this department when said burning is completed and extinguished.
- 7.) Burning shall be allowed only on days that the forest fire classification is at a Class One or Class Two as classified by the Maine Forestry Service.
- 8.) Burning shall not be allowed when the duty officer feels that wind conditions are excessive.
- 9.) Burning shall not be allowed of such size, type or location that may be objectionable to surrounding residences or occupancies.
- 10.) Failure to abide by restrictions or upon complaint of surrounding residences will be just cause to have the permit revoked.

### **Permissible Burning**

#### **Burning may be allowed as follows:**

- 1.) Residential vegetation materials.
- 2.) Stumps, but only if burned in an approved stump burner. Encourage the requesting party to take stumps to an approved stump burning facility.
- 3.) STUMP BURNING: If they insist on burning the stump they will be given a permit but are told that if we receive any complaints with regards to smoke we will have to put it out.
- 4.) Grass lots if of controllable size.
- 5.) Residential cooking fires.
- 6.) Commercial cooking fires for a civic organization or for ceremonial purposes.
- 7.) Bon fires for a civic organization or for ceremonial purposes. Bon fires and commercial cooking fires shall be limited as follows:
  - a.) 50 feet from any structure or combustible storage.
  - b.) No more than 5 feet by 5 feet in size.
  - c.) May not last more than three hours.
  - d.) Proper protective actions, as set forth by this department, have been met.
  - e.) The fire is completely extinguished when complete
  - f.) All residue is removed from the site after said material has been extinguished and cooled.
  - g.) Only bon fires and cooking fires for civic organizations or ceremonial purposes may be allowed on city owned land. No such permit shall be given for any such fire until the applicant has secured written permission from the Director of the City Department responsible for the applicable land and shall designate the time and location for said fire.
  - h.) No fires shall be allowed on Willard Beach.

### **Burning Not Allowed**

#### **Burning shall not be allowed for:**

- 1.) No burning shall be allowed on any public street surface.

- 2.) Slash from the clearing of land, said slash should be disposed of by use of commercial clipper.
- 3.) Disposal of industrial waste and trash, including building construction materials.
- 4.) Disposal of residential waste and trash not of a vegetation nature.
- 5.) Burning of insulation from wires.
- 6.) Disposal of hazardous material.
- 7.) Burning of any hydrocarbon or any other material that may create a dense smoke condition.
- 8.) Demolished buildings.
- 9.) Any burning for salvage purposes.
- 10.) No burning shall be allowed on any property that doesn't belong to the applicant unless said applicant has obtained written permission from the owner.
- 11.) No burning shall be allowed after 9:00pm at night unless express permission is granted by the Chief of the department or his designee.

3. REFERENCES:

- None

By Order Of:

*Kevin W Guimond*

Kevin W. Guimond  
Fire Chief