

TOWN OF BARTLETT FIRE DEPARTMENT

Basic Outline of Fire Permit Rules & Laws

Each Town has its own Forest Fire Warden. In Bartlett, the Forest Fire Warden is the Fire Chief. Fire Permits can be obtained from the Forest Fire Warden or his designee. Patch's Market located at 69 US Rt. 302 is also a Permit Issuer in the Town of Bartlett, NH. **ONLY** the Forest Fire Warden or a Permit Issuer of a Town can issue permits for their Town. A permit from another Town **IS NOT** valid in Bartlett.

Permits are required **ANYTIME** the ground is not completely covered with snow as outlined in the following definition:

“Ground covered with snow means the area within 100’ radius from the fire edge is covered with snow or frozen precipitation sufficient to prevent the combustion of woodland fuels until the fire is completely extinguished.”

In other words, the ground must be completely covered with snow 200’ around the fire. If it is not, you must obtain a permit.

Permits are still required when it is actively raining. A light rain, mist, or intermittent rain showers are *not* considered actively raining. If you light your fire while it is raining and it stops raining, you must **IMMEDIATELY EXTINGUISH** your fire.

To obtain a permit you **MUST** be:

- At least 18 years old
- The property owner or have written permission from the property owner. It is the responsibility of the person applying for the permit to obtain this prior to obtaining a permit. If a person falsely claims to be the property owner or does not have the owner's written permission, the penalty is the same as burning without a permit.

You must produce your permit when asked to do so by a law enforcement officer or fire official.

The only materials that can be legally burned are **CLEAN, UNTREATED WOOD less than 5” in diameter** that **HAS NOT** been attached to a building or structure.

You **CAN NOT** burn plywood, particle board, cardboard, painted or stained wood, plastic, paper, trash, or anything that is not **CLEAN UNTREATED WOOD**.

ALL permitted fires **MUST BE ATTENDED** as outlined in the following definition:

- “ATTENDED means that an individual responsible for the fire and capable of extinguishing the fire is on the same property as the fire, is able to immediately extinguish the fire, and has the fire in plain view.”
- In other words, you must be where the fire is and you must have an adequate water supply, manpower, and tools to immediately extinguish the fire before lighting your fire.

CATEGORIES OF FIRES AND PERMITS

There are 4 categories of fires and permits and these are outlined below:

Category I

A **Category I** is a small controlled fire no greater the 2' in diameter **COMPLETELY CONTAINED** in a ring of fire resistive material or in a portable fire place that is at least 25' away from any structure.

A **Category I** fire can be burned if conditions allow with a permit anytime of day whether raining or not.

Category II

A **Category II** fire is a controlled fire no greater than 4' in diameter **COMPLETELY CONTAINED** in a ring of fire resistive material or portable fireplace that is at least 50' away from any structure.

A **Category II** fire can only be burned if conditions allow with a permit in the evenings from 5:00 PM to 9:00 AM

Category III

A **Category III** fire is a controlled fire greater than 4' in diameter OR any size fire not completely contained in a ring of fire resistive material that is at least 50' away from any structure.

A **Category III** fire can only be burned if conditions allow with a permit in the evening from 5:00 PM to 9:00 AM.

A **Category III** fire can be burned anytime of day **ONLY IF** it is actively raining. If it stops raining before 5:00 PM the fire **MUST** be completely extinguished. Mist, sprinkles, and very light rain **IS NOT** considered actively raining.

Seasonal Permits

Seasonal Permits expire December 31 of the year they were issued and are required to be renewed each year.

Seasonal Permits are available for Category I & II Fires and can be obtained from the Fire Chief **ONLY**. To arrange for a Seasonal Permit, please call the Glen Station at 383-9555.

Responsibilities of the Permit Holder

The Permit Holder is responsible for:

- > Being the Property Owner or have written permission from the property owner **BEFORE** obtaining a permit or burning
- > Attending the Fire
- > Completely Extinguishing the Fire
- > Burning **ONLY** during the proper hours depending on Category of Fire & Permit
- > Burning only when conditions are favorable
- > Burning **ONLY** approved materials
- > Keeping the fire under control
- > Damage to any property or the property of another
- > Cost of extinguishment by the Fire Department

Commonly Asked Questions

1. What materials can I burn with a permit?

Only clean untreated wood less than 5" in diameter can be legally burned. In simple basic terms, you can not burn anything else.

2. How close to a structure can I have my fire?

*A Category I fire **MUST** be no less than **25' way** and a Category II or greater fire **MUST** be no less than **50' away** from any structure.*

3. When can I burn my fire?

A Category I fire can be burned anytime whether raining or not (with a permit). A Category II and Category III fire can only be burned (with a permit) between the hours of 5:00 PM and 9:00 AM unless it is actively raining.

4. If I light my Category II or III fire while it is actively raining and it stops actively raining do I have to extinguish my fire?

Yes! The fire must be completely extinguished and you must wait until after 5:00 PM to re-light your fire.

5. Do I need a permit to have a charcoal fire?

If the charcoal is directly contacting the ground, YES. If you are burning your charcoal up off the ground in a container, such as a grill, NO you do not need a permit but your container must be at least 25' away from a structure.

6. Do I need a permit to have a fire in a store bought fire place, fire pit or pot type device with a short chimney?

Yes! The size of the fire place, fire pit, or device with a chimney will dictate the distance it must be away from a structure. A 2' or less in diameter container MUST be no less than 25' away and a larger than 2' up to 4' in diameter container MUST be no less than 50' away from a structure.

7. Are permits always valid?

No! There are times when conditions are such that the fire danger is too great to issue or honor any permits. It is the permit holder's responsibility to know when permits are valid or honored.

Things to Remember

The Permit Holder is ultimately responsible for the fire.

Any fires that are not being burned in accordance with the rules and laws of burning makes the permit you were issued invalid and it is the same offense as burning without a permit.

You can be charged criminally for any violation of the rules and laws that regulate burning and face possible imprisonment and fines.

You can be held liable for any damage to property and the property of others. It is strongly recommended you check with your insurance company to make sure you are covered for such a loss **BEFORE** lighting your fire.

For more information please call the Fire Chief at 603-383-9555 or NH Division of Forests & Land at 603-271-2217 or log onto nhdf.org. The daily fire danger forecast is also available by calling toll free 866-643-4737.