



Open Air Fires



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What is an Open Air Fire?

Open air fires include any fire that is conducted outside a building. All people, businesses and farm owners wanting to have an open air fire in Kingston must first apply for a free Open Air Fire Permit.

Kingston Fire & Rescue requires property owners and/or tenants to have a permit, and offers them free of charge. Permits are a way to ensure everyone is aware of the open air fire rules aimed at preventing dangerous and/or nuisance situations.

✕ Exemptions

Appliances that do not require a permit are those appliances with mechanical shut-offs (e.g. propane or natural gas appliances), and grilling or cooking fires using smokers, barbecues, masonry barbecues, charcoal appliances, hibachis, and contained pizza ovens.

Ceremonial and Sacred Fires are permitted at any time and are excused from the open air fires bylaw and permit requirements. Organizers are encouraged to contact KFR Communications at (613) 548-4001 ext. 5156 prior to the starting and after extinguishing ceremonial and sacred fires.

All other open air fires require a permit. Please keep reading!



Permit types and zones











There are seven Open Air Fire Permit types available in Kingston. Depending on the location of the open air fire, the property owner may only be eligible to apply for certain permit types.

All terms and conditions outlined for the permit type applied for must be met. Failure to meet or comply with the regulations could result in a fine – or worse, an uncontrolled fire.

To obtain a permit, provide your full name, email address or phone number, home address, and the location on your property where the fire is planned. After reviewing the permit and regulations listed, learn how to apply for a permit on page 18.



What kind of open air fire are you having?

Permit Type	Zone 1	Zone 2
Agricultural		X
Brush		X
Campgrounds		X
Campfires		X
Outdoor appliance		
Outdoor fireplace		
Special events		

 Permit may be granted **X** Permit not granted

Burn bans

Partial Burn Ban

During a Partial Burn Ban, the setting of all agricultural fires, brush fires, and fireworks are prohibited.

Total Burn Ban

During a Total Burn Ban, the setting of fireworks and all open air fires, including campfires, outdoor appliances and fireplaces, agricultural, brush fires, and special event fires are prohibited.

The ban does not include appliances with mechanical shut-offs (e.g. propane or natural gas appliances), and grilling or cooking fires using smokers, barbecues, masonry barbecues, charcoal appliances, hibachis, and contained pizza ovens.

Safety

Regardless of the type of open air fire you are having, always use caution.

- Never use flammable liquids, such as gasoline, to start your fire.
- Remove all vegetation and other material that could spread the fire.
- Maintain close supervision of children and pets.
- Keep your fire on a non-combustible surface and follow clearance requirements.
- Have an adequate supply of water available to extinguish or control the fire.
- Pay attention to wind conditions and potential spark hazards.

Be a good neighbour

Obtaining a permit to have an open air fire does not relieve you from your obligation to also comply with the Environmental Protection Act of Ontario, which regulates air quality. While burning, it is your responsibility to ensure smoke does not interfere with the ability of neighbours to enjoy their properties or conduct their business without disruption. Watch where smoke travels and do not burn under the following conditions:

- Smog alert
- Foggy conditions
- Winds



Open air fires are not permitted when wind speeds exceed 25 kilometers per hour, as determined by Environment and Climate Change Canada.

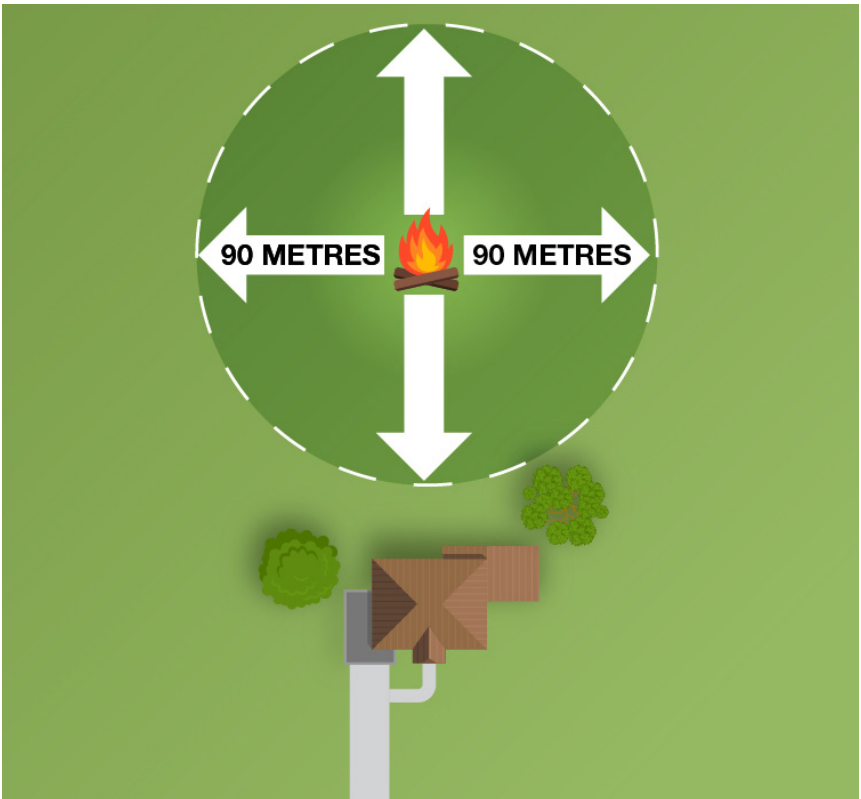
www.weather.gc.ca

Agricultural fires

Only registered farming businesses in the rural fire Zone 1 may have an agricultural fire. These fires cannot exceed 6 metres (20 feet) in all directions or as otherwise approved by the Fire Chief. Agricultural fires must be at least 90 metres away from any building, hedge, fence, overhead wires, trees, other combustible materials, or the lot line.

To obtain an agricultural open air fire permit the following information is required:

- Your full name, phone number, email address and home address.
- The location of the fire on the property.



Terms and Conditions

No Person shall Set or Maintain an Agricultural Fire, or cause or permit an Agricultural Fire to be Set or Maintained, unless all of the following conditions are met:

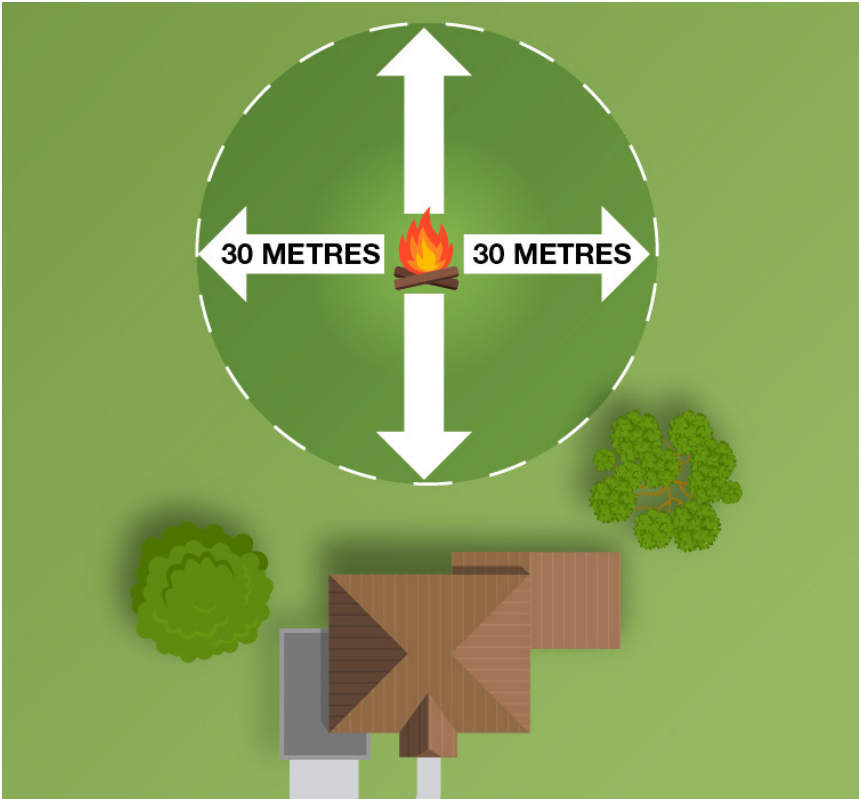
- The Agricultural Fire is contained on a Property within the Open Air Fire Zone 1.
- Kingston Fire & Rescue has inspected and approved the location of the Agricultural Fire.
- Kingston Fire & Rescue dispatch / communications has been notified prior to Setting the Agricultural Fire at (613) 548-4001 ext. 5156.
- The Agricultural Fire shall be Set and Maintained at a distance of no less than 90 metres (295 feet), or at such greater distance as may be specified in the Agricultural Fire Permit, from any building, hedge, fence, overhead wire, trees, or other combustible material, or the lot line.
- The Material to be Burned shall not exceed 6 metres (20 feet) in height, 6 metres (20 feet) in width, and 6 metres (20 feet) in length, or as otherwise approved by the Fire Chief.
- The Agricultural Fire is not Set or Maintained except during the timeframes set out on the issued Open Air Fire Permit.
- Necessary means are immediately available at the site of the Agricultural Fire to permit the fire to be Extinguished, and/or to limit the spread of fire, and if necessary, to summon Kingston Fire & Rescue.
- There is a Person present and in control of the Agricultural Fire at all times.
- The Person present and in control of the Agricultural Fire is the Person identified in the Open Air Fire Permit.
- Kingston Fire & Rescue dispatch / communications is notified as soon as is practicable after the Agricultural Fire is Extinguished.

Brush fires

Limited to the rural fire Zone 1, brush fires cannot exceed 3 metres (10 feet) in all directions or as otherwise approved by the Fire Chief. These fires must be at least 30 metres from any building, hedge, fence, overhead wires, trees, or other combustible materials, or the lot line.

To obtain a brush open air fire permit, the following information is required:

- Your full name, phone number, email address, home address and the location of the brush fire on the property.



Terms and Conditions

No Person shall Set or Maintain a Brush Fire, or cause or permit a Brush Fire to be Set or Maintained, unless all of the following conditions

are met:

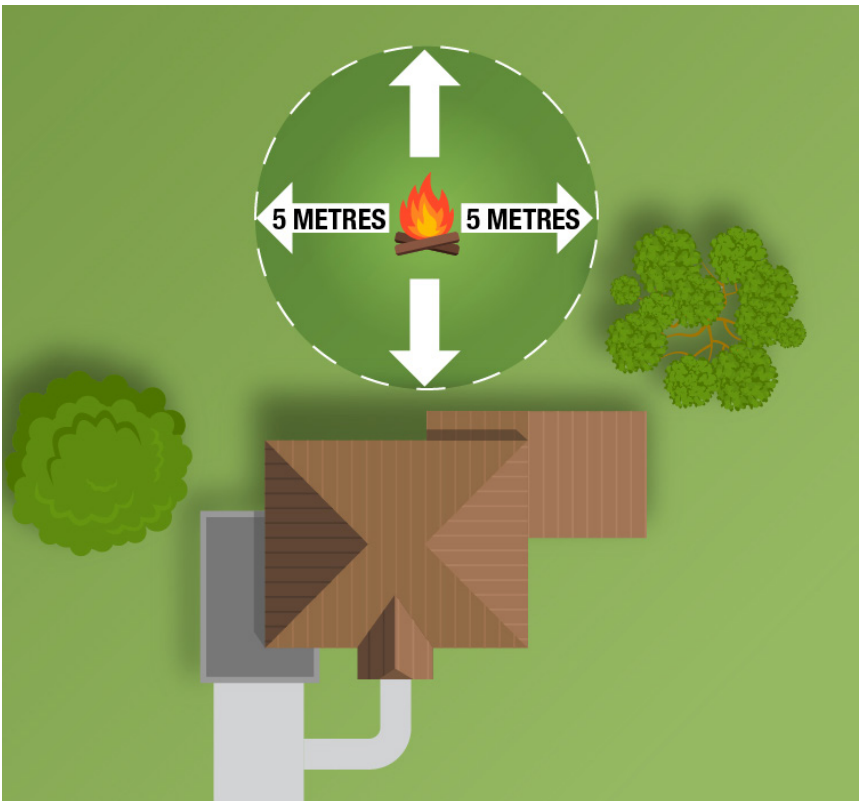
- The Brush Fire is contained on a Property within the Open Air Fire Zone.
- Kingston Fire & Rescue dispatch / communications has been notified prior to Setting the Brush Fire at (613) 548-4001 ext. 5156.
- The Brush Fire shall be Set and Maintained at a distance of no less than 30 metres (98 feet), or such greater distance as may be specified in the Open Air Fire Permit, from any building, hedge, fence, overhead wires, trees, or other combustible material, or the lot line.
- The Material to be Burned shall not exceed 3 metres (10 feet) in height, 3 metres (10 feet) in width and 3 metres (10 feet) in length or as otherwise approved by the Fire Chief.
- The Brush Fire is not Set or Maintained except during the timeframes set out on the issued Open Air Fire Permit.
- Necessary means are immediately available at the site of the Brush Fire to permit the fire to be Extinguished, and/or to limit the spread of fire, and if necessary, to summon, Kingston Fire & Rescue.
- There is a Person present and in control of the Brush Fire at all times.
- The Person present and in control of the Brush Fire is the Person identified in the Open Air Fire Permit.
- Kingston Fire & Rescue dispatch / communications is notified as soon as is practicable after the Brush Fire is Extinguished.

Campground

These fires are located within a campground and not on private property. The owner of the campground must apply for the permit. Individual campers visiting the campground need not apply.

To obtain a campground fire permit, the following information is required:

- Your full name, phone number, email address and home address.
- The location of the campfires on the property.



Terms and Conditions

No Person shall Set or Maintain an Open Air Fire in a Campground, or cause or permit an Open Air Fire to be Set or Maintained in a Camground, except in accordance with any specific terms and conditions that the Fire Chief imposes pursuant to section 7.2 (Schedule A) of the By-Law, and unless all of the following terms and conditions are met:

Necessary means are immediately available at the Camground to permit an Open Air Fire to be Extinguished, and/or to limit the spread of fire, and if necessary, to summon Kingston Fire and Rescue.

There is a Person present and in control of the Open Air Fire at all times.

The Fire Chief may, in his or her sole discretion, require as a condition of any Campground Permit, specific terms and conditions in addition to those set out in this By-Law and Schedule.

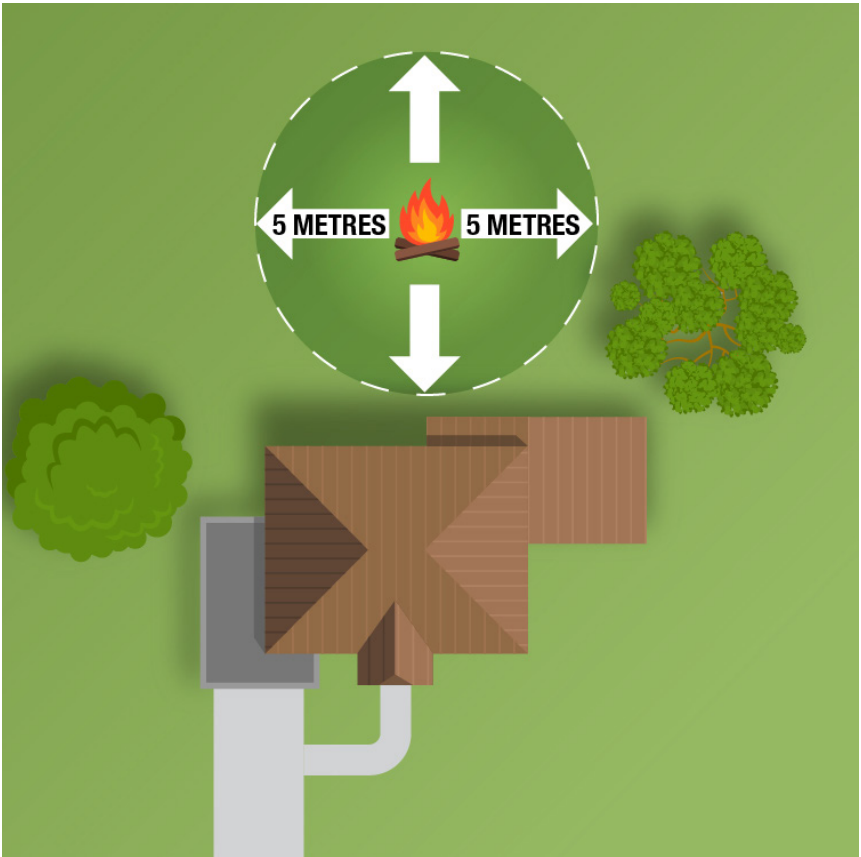
Every owner/operator/supervisor of a Campground shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions of this By-Law and the terms and conditions of an issued Campground Permit.

Campfire

A campfire is contained in an area of non-combustible metal, masonry, ceramic or stone, or is contained within a pit in the ground on private property. The campfire must be at least 5 metres from any building, structure, hedge, fence, overhead wiring, trees, other combustible materials, or the lot line.

To obtain a campfire fire permit, the following information is required:

- Your full name, phone number, email address and home address.
- The location of the campfire on the property.



Terms and Conditions

No Person shall Set or Maintain a Campfire, or cause or permit a Campfire to be Set or Maintained, unless all of the following conditions are met:

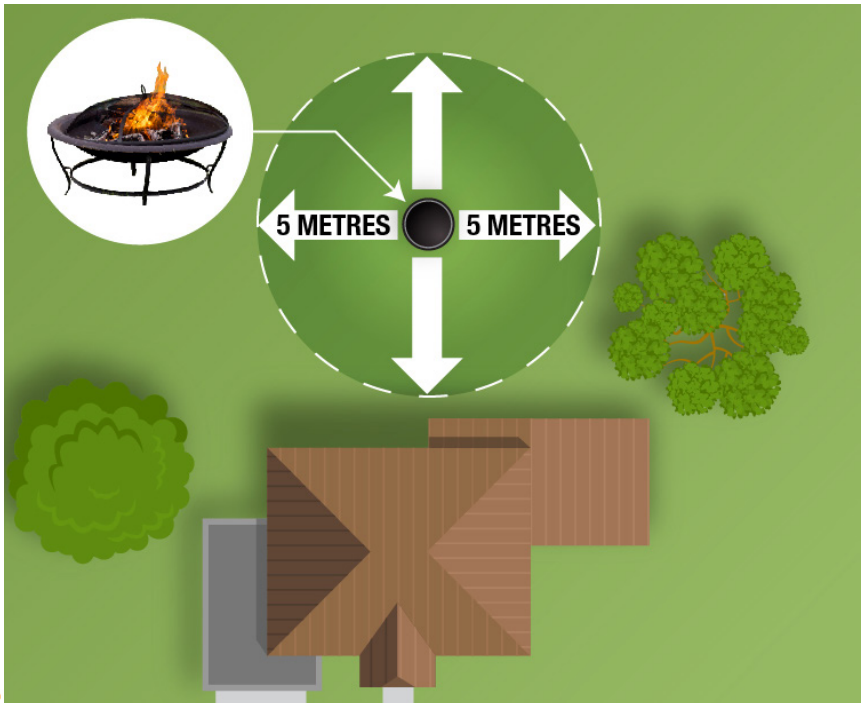
- The Campfire is contained on a Property within the Open Air Fire Zone 1.
- The Campfire is contained within an area of non-combustible metal, masonry, ceramic or stone or is contained within a pit in the ground that does not exceed 90 centimetres (3 feet) in height, width, and length.
- The Material to be Burned in the Campfire is clean dry wood in a single pile and does not exceed 90 centimetres (3 feet) in height, width, and length.
- The Campfire is located at a distance of not less than 5 metres (16 feet) from any building, structure, hedge, fence, overhead wiring, trees, or other combustible material, or the lot line.
- Necessary means are immediately available at the site of the Campfire to permit the fire to be Extinguished, and/or to limit the spread of fire, and if necessary, to summon Kingston Fire & Rescue.
- There is a Person present and in control of the Campfire at all times.
- The Person present and in control of the Campfire is the Person identified in the Open Air Fire Permit.

Outdoor appliance

An outdoor appliance means a wood burning device that is CAN/ULC approved or approved by the fire chief. Appliances that are exempted from the bylaw and do not require a permit are appliances with mechanical shut-offs (for example, propane or natural gas appliances), and grilling or cooking fires using smokers, barbecues, masonry barbecues, charcoal appliances, hibachis, and contained pizza ovens. The appliance must be at least 5 metres from any building, structure, hedge, fence, overhead wiring, trees, other combustible materials, or the lot line.

To obtain a outdoor appliance fire permit, the following information is required:

- Your full name, phone number, email address and home address.
- The location of the fire on the property.



Terms and Conditions

No Person shall Set or Maintain a fire in an Outdoor Appliance, or cause or permit a fire to be Set or Maintained in an Outdoor Appliance, unless all of the following conditions are met:

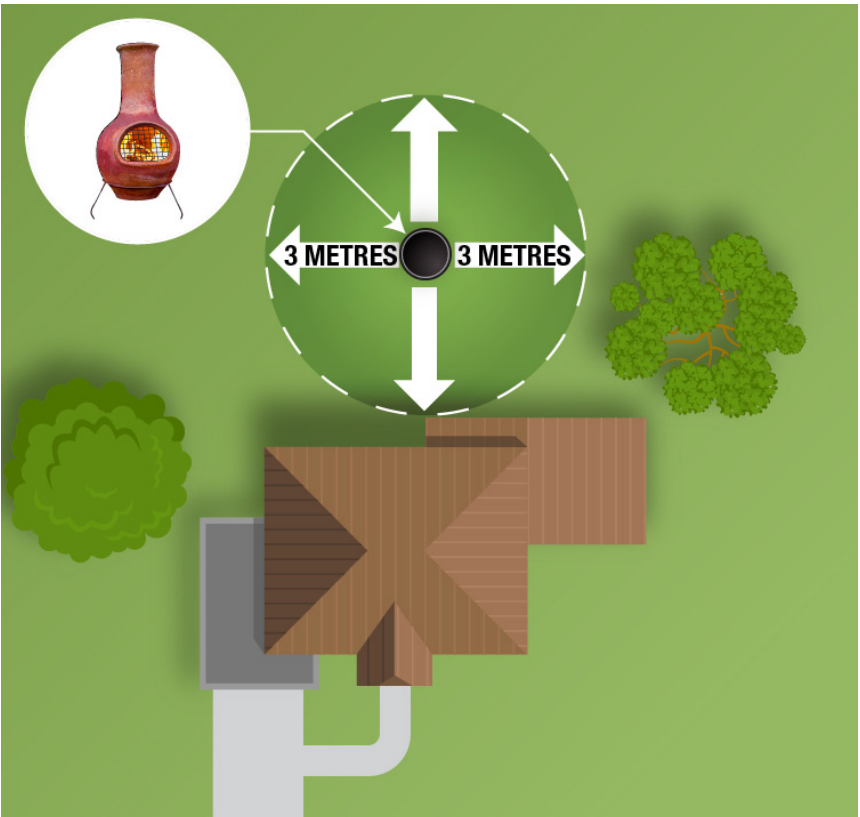
- The Outdoor Appliance is not located on a balcony.
- The Outdoor Appliance is not located on any combustible surface.
- The Outdoor Appliance is in good working order.
- The Outdoor Appliance is located at a distance of not less than 5 metres (16 feet) from any building, structure, hedge, fence, overhead wiring, trees, or other combustible material, or the lot line.
- The Outdoor Appliance is equipped with a spark arrester or protective cover placed over the fuel, chimney or opening so that it contains sparks and embers.
- The Material to be Burned is clean dry wood in a single pile and does not exceed 45 centimetres (1.5 feet) in height, width and length.
- Necessary means are immediately available to permit the fire to be Extinguished, and/or to limit the spread of fire, and if necessary, to summon Kingston Fire & Rescue.
- There is a Person present and in control of the fire at all times.
- The Person present and in control of the Fire is identified in the Open Air Fire Permit.

Outdoor fireplace

An outdoor fireplace means a manufactured, non-combustible, enclosed container designed to hold a small fire for decorative purposes, the size of which does not exceed 1 metre in any direction, and includes, but is not limited to, a chiminea. The fireplace must be at least 3 metres from any building, structure, hedge, fence, overhead wiring, trees, other combustible materials, or the lot line.

To obtain a outdoor appliance fire permit, the following information is required:

- Your full name, phone number, email address and home address.
- The location of the fire on the property



Terms and Conditions

No Person shall Set or Maintain a fire in an Outdoor Fireplace, or cause or permit a fire to be Set or Maintained in an Outdoor Fireplace, unless all of the following conditions are met:

- The Outdoor Fireplace is not located on a balcony.
- The Outdoor Fireplace is not located on any combustible surface.
- The Outdoor Fireplace is in good working order.
- The Outdoor Fireplace is located at a distance of not less than 3 metres (10 feet) from any building, structure, hedge, fence, overhead wiring, trees, or other combustible material, or the lot line.
- The Outdoor Fireplace is equipped with a spark arrester or protective cover placed over the fuel, chimney or opening so that it contains sparks and embers.
- The Material to be Burned is clean dry wood in a single pile and does not exceed 45 centimetres (1.5 feet) in height, width and length.
- Necessary means are immediately available to permit the fire to be Extinguished, and/or to limit the spread of fire, and if necessary, to summon Kingston Fire & Rescue.
- There is a Person present and in control of the fire at all times.
- The Person present and in control of the Fire is identified in the Open Air Fire Permit.



Special event fires

Special events include, but are not limited to, school programs, community organizations such as Girl/Boy Scouts, 4H Club, and events organized through the City of Kingston.

To get a special event fire permit, the following information is required:

- Your full name, phone number, email address and home address.
- The location of the fire on the property.

Terms and Conditions

No Person shall Set or Maintain an Open Air Fire during or as part of a Special Event, or cause or permit an Open Air Fire to be Set or Maintained during or as part of a Special Event, except in accordance with any specific terms and conditions that the Fire Chief imposes pursuant to section 6.2 (Schedule A) of the By-Law, and unless the following terms and conditions are met:

- Necessary means are immediately available at the site of the Open Air Fire to permit the fire to be Extinguished, and/or to limit the spread of fire, and if necessary, to summon Kingston Fire and Rescue.
- There is a Person present and in control of the Open Air Fire at all times.
- The Person present and in control of the Open Air Fire is the Person identified in the Special Event Fire Permit.
- The Fire Chief may, in his or her sole discretion, may impose, as part of a Special Event Fire Permit, any other terms and conditions as the Fire Chief deems necessary, in addition to those set out in this By-Law and Schedule, including but not limited to restricting the time(s) or day(s) during which an Open Air Fire is permitted.
- Applying for a special event fire permit means you have read and understood the terms and conditions



How to apply for an open air fire permit

Interested in obtaining a permit? Residents can apply for a permit online or by calling Kingston Fire & Rescue.

Online

- Visit CityofKingston.ca/OAF.
- Read the regulations and requirements to easily complete the application form.
- Your approved permit will be emailed to you.

No computer?

You may call Kingston Fire & Rescue at 613-548-4001 ext. 5123 weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. to apply for a permit by phone.



Penalties

Persons violating the City's Bylaw regulating open air fires may be ticketed up to \$250.

An Assistant to the Fire Marshal has the option of prosecuting offenders under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act for violating the Ontario Fire Code. Conviction may result in a fine up to \$50,000 for an individual and \$100,000 for a Corporation.

In addition, persons who conduct or permit open air fires in contravention of the bylaw may be subject to full cost recovery measures including the cost of Fire Department vehicles, equipment and staff.



In the event of an emergency, call 9-1-1

For general inquiries concerning open air fires, permits, and restrictions:

Visit: CityofKingston.ca/OAF

Call: The Fire Prevention Division at
(613) 548-4001 ext. 5123