

Johnson Township Volunteer Fire Department

Fire Emergency # 911

Ron Smith, Chief
Lake Huron Drive, Desbarats, Ontario P0R 1E0
(705) 782-6802

Fire Permit Guidelines & Conditions

Please note that fire permits are subject to changes due to fire bans. Please visit <https://johnsontownship.ca> for bans throughout the season.

General conditions to be complied with by the permit holder

1. The permit holder shall keep the permit at the site of the burning operation conducted under this permit and shall show the permit upon request to any person in proper authority.
2. The permit holder shall have at the location of the fire sufficient persons and firefighting equipment to control the fires and assumes full responsibility for determining the sufficiency of persons and equipment.
3. The permit holder shall keep the fire at least 15 meters from any structure and 5 meters from any combustible material (trees, grass, woodpiles, etc.)
4. The permit holder shall not leave the site of the fire until the fire has been completely extinguished.
5. The permit holder shall be responsible to determine if restricted fire zone conditions are in effect.
6. The permit holder assumes full responsibility for all damages of every nature and kind which may arise as a result of the fire set by the permit holder and irrevocably agrees to indemnify and save harmless the Township from any claims made against the Township in consequence of damages arising from the fire set by the permit holder.
7. The Township may cancel or suspend the fire permit at any time and immediately upon receiving notice of such cancellation or suspension the permit holder shall extinguish any fire started under the permit.
8. Any costs and expenses incurred by the Township or any Provincial Authority in controlling or extinguishing the fires set by the permit holder shall be paid by the permit holder.
- 9.
10. Every person who fails to comply with the terms of this permit is guilty of an offence under the Forest Fire Prevention Act, and/or the Ontario Fire Code and upon conviction is liable to a fine or to imprisonment as provided in the said legislation.

Ontario Fire Code guidelines

The Ontario Fire Code states:

2.6.3.4 –

Open air burning shall not be permitted unless approved, or unless such burning consists of a small, confined fire, supervised at all times, and used to cook food on a grill or barbecue.

Use of an incinerator – You can burn brush, leaves or wood by-products in an incinerator, provided you meet all of the following conditions:

1. All incinerators must be inspected before use.*
2. The incinerator is an enclosed device constructed of entirely non-combustible material.
3. The incinerator is covered by a non-combustible screen having a mesh size of not more than 5 millimeters.
4. The incinerator must be at least 5 meters away from any forest of woodland.
5. The incinerator must be at least 2 meters away from any flammable material.
6. A responsible person must monitor the fire until it is extinguished.

**Contact Johnson Township Volunteer Fire Department at (705) 782-6802 for inspection and an approval certificate.*

Safety when burning grass and debris

Ensure that you have a valid burn permit

Choose a safe time – Ignite the fire no sooner than 2 hours before sunset and extinguish it no later than 2 hours after sunrise; never burn on a dry, windy day

Keep your fire small - Burn only a single pile at one time and ensure the pile is less than 2 meters in diameter and less than 2 meters high

Choose a safe site – Keep the fire at least 2 meters from any flammable materials and have a shovel, rake and adequate water to contain the fire at the fire site

Stay with your fire – Ensure a responsible person tends the fire and never leave it unattended. Keep it under control at all times and make sure that is completely extinguished before leaving it

Remember! – If your burn gets away and becomes a wildfire, you will be liable for the suppression costs and damages to property including the value of lost timber.

Campfires

Build a safe campfire.

- Build campfires away from overhanging branches, steep slopes, rotten stumps, logs, dry grass and leaves.

- Keep the campfire small – a good bed of coals or a small fire surrounded by rocks gives plenty of heat. Use an existing fire ring if possible.
- Never leave a campfire unattended. Even a small breeze could quickly cause the fire to spread.
- Start with dry twigs and small sticks. Remember that a good fire builder never needs gas or kerosene to start a fire.
- Add larger sticks as the fire grows. Avoid using hatchets or saws, or breaking branches off trees. Dead and down wood burns easily.
- Put the big pieces on last, pointing them toward the center and pushing them into the flames. Use wood no larger than the diameter of an adult wrist.
- Putting out your campfire
- If your campfire is not "dead out", wind can rekindle the embers and start a wildfire. Follow these steps to be safe.
- Keep plenty of water handy and have a shovel for throwing dirt on the fire if it gets out of control.
- Be sure your match is out cold. Break it so you can feel the charred portion before carefully discarding it.
- Drown the fire with water. Make sure all embers and sticks are wet. Move rocks to check for burning embers underneath them.
- Stir the remains, add more water and stir again. Be sure all burned material has been put out and cooled. Smaller pieces of wood are easier to put out than large logs.
- Feel all materials with your bare hand. Make sure that no roots are burning.
- Campfires may be banned if wildfires are likely. Watch for ban signs and obey them.