

Safe Burning Guidelines

The Town of Mount Washington is a forest community, and the result of not adhering to safe burning practices could be disastrous for all of us. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with our guidelines, and thank you for your compliance with them.

The Town does not issue physical permits for burning but follows instead a long-standing set of simple guidelines based on rules applicable throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as well as common sense. Residents are required to sign the burning notification sheet posted at the Mount Washington Town Hall in advance of any allowable burning operations. Burning of brush, trees, or forestry debris is allowed between **January 15 and May 1st of each year**, under the following conditions:

- Burning must be at least 75 feet from all dwellings;
- Burning must be carried out between 7 AM and 4 PM;
- Burning must take place on land closest to the source of materials to be burned.

While burning, someone must ALWAYS attend all fires until they are completely extinguished. It is also imperative to have a water supply handy, as well as shovels and/or rakes for controlling the fire. When extinguishing the fire, allow enough time for it to burn down to coals and then spread the coals with snow, water, sand or soil and double check to make sure the fire is OUT before leaving the burn site.

A final but important note: burning is strictly prohibited during adverse meteorological conditions. To learn when a burning ban is in effect because of dry or other adverse conditions, residents of Mount Washington must call William Turner, our Fire Chief based in Egremont, on the day they wish to burn. Chief Turner may be reached at 413 528 3464. If you have difficulty reaching Chief Turner, please contact the Town of Mount Washington Town Hall on 413 528 2839 or send an e-mail to briantobin@townofmtwashington.com.