



Hamilton Emergency Services  
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Hamilton, Ontario  
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Hamilton



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Release

## WARNING ISSUED REGARDING OPEN AIR BURNING

HAMILTON, ON – April 22, 2009 – With warmer weather forecast for the up-coming weekend, Hamilton Emergency Services – Fire is once again issuing a warning to all citizens regarding open air burning in the City of Hamilton. In the past 8 weeks, Hamilton firefighters have responded to over 70 burning complaints across the City. Of these responses, approximately 67% of the responses were located in urban areas of the City where open air burning **is not** permitted. In addition to these calls, firefighters have responded to 119 grass fires across the City. Many of these grass fires were started as the result of open air burning.

These types of calls needlessly tie up fire suppression apparatus, making them unavailable for other emergency calls in the same district. In addition, fires of this nature can easily get out of control, endangering nearby residents and buildings.

If residents are considering burning their yard trimmings and clippings (does not include leaves) or other clean wood products they must first verify that they are allowed to conduct open-air burning and obtain a burn permit prior to any burning being conducted. Once a burn permit has been obtained, it is imperative that the guidelines listed on the reverse side of the permit be adhered to. This includes ensuring that the permitted pile size is not exceeded, the fire is supervised at all times, equipment capable of extinguishing the fire is on site and burning takes into account changing wind conditions. It is also required that all ground vegetation be cleared around the burning site in accordance with the permit guidelines.

Under a municipal by-law passed in October 2002, open-air burning is allowed only in areas that have been designated as rural. Open-air burning **is not** permitted in areas that have been designated as urban. These designations are as set out in the Official Plan for the City of Hamilton. For those residents in areas of the City where open air burning is not permitted, they may seek other means of disposal such as composting or removal to one of the City's waste transfer stations.

Restrictions on open-air burning also apply to outdoor burning appliances such as chimineas and outdoor fireplaces, however, in a recent amendment to the Ontario Fire Code, the use of propane or natural gas fuelled outdoor fireplaces that bear the stamp of an approved listing agency such as ULC, CSA, Warnock Hershey or Intertek Testing Services can now be used in all areas of the City without the issuance of a burn permit..

Residents are asked to contact the Fire Prevention Division of Hamilton Emergency Services at 905 546-2424 ext. 1380 to determine if their property is located in an area of the City where open air burning can be conducted. Open air burning information can also be viewed on our web-site located at [www.hamilton.ca/fire](http://www.hamilton.ca/fire)

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**For more information, please contact**

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