

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Volunteer Checklist

The volunteer responsible for the open air burn is:

- Qualified because of knowledge, training and experience to supervise the open air burn.
- Has read and understands the Open Air Burning Safety Protocol.
- Has knowledge of any potential or actual danger to health or safety at the open air burn site.
- Is eighteen years old or older.

**VOLUNTEER NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone # :** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE of Campfire:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expected attendance #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Type of Campfire (warming/cooking):** \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CONTACT RECREATION STAFF IF ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED, TO REPORT DISTURBANCES OR IF YOU END YOUR FIRE EARLY:

**Recreation staff on call this day:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Important Points to Remember:

- Shovel sand from the firepit into a bucket. At the end of your campfire, use this sand to stifle the fire before extinguishing the coals with water.
- Use the shovel to build a sand barricade around the campfire pit.
- Remember the max 2 foot rule: 2 ft campfire pit diameter, 2 ft height of flames.
- Make sure you have two buckets of water at the campfire site before you light your fire.
- Since the park is in a residential area, it's important to keep sound at a moderate level (sorry, not drumming), and to avoid making a smoky fire.
- To make it easy to put out your fire on time, **stop adding wood at least half an hour before your finish time** (ie. 9:30 pm at the latest).
- Be forewarned that campfires need to be canceled if winds exceed 25 km/hr or if there is a smog alert.

### BACKGROUND: CAMPFIRES AS "EYES ON THE PARK"

*The campfires started in 1994, to increase the night-time liveliness of the park and therefore to make the park safer and friendlier. The two fire-sites are intentionally located right by the main park thoroughfare. Everyone can pass nearby and enjoy the beautiful light of the fire, and the smell of food roasting on the grill. Campfire cooks often share the food they cook, if someone comes along hungry or just curious. A city is a place of many strangers, and it can be scary, a dark park even more so. But a campfire is a reassuring circle of light and activity. So the campfire participants contribute the neighbourliness of the park.*

*A few times (very few) there has been trouble elsewhere in the park, and the campfire participants have gone to help. The trouble was quickly defused. Safety in numbers! This is exactly the point of a lively park – trouble goes somewhere else. So if you want to have a campfire, don't forget: you'll have an important job.*

# Open Air Burning Safety Protocol

1. **Fire Containment:** The fire circle should have a maximum diameter of 60 cm (24"). A cooking fire should be kept small so as not to burn the food.
2. The fire must be built on a non-combustible surface. The fire circle should be defined with bricks, stones, or banked sand to ensure that the wood stays within the circle, thereby containing the fire.
3. An "Open Air Burn" shall have a maximum fuel volume of 0.61 metres x 0.61 metres x 0.61 metres height (2 feet x 2 feet x 2 feet), that is set and maintained solely for the purpose of cooking food, providing warmth or recreational enjoyment and where:
  - The open air burn shall be constructed on a non combustible surface;
  - The site of the open air burn shall be confined to non combustible containers, or a pit constructed of bare rock, sand or mineral soil;
  - The open air burn is set at least 3.04 metres (10 feet) from any combustible structures or objects;
  - The space above the open air burn is at least 3.04 metres (10 feet) from vegetation and the drip line (overhanging branches) of trees.
4. **Safety equipment:** There must be two buckets of water and one bucket of sand at hand to put the fire out fast if necessary, except in winter. In winter, have two buckets of water close enough to the fire that the water doesn't freeze, and also have a bucket of snow. Sand is usually frozen solid in winter; snow works better.
5. There must be a shovel, which may be used to turn logs or rearrange the fire in order to damp it down or build it up. Then use it to stir the ashes to wet them evenly when extinguishing the fire.
6. **Cooking equipment:** Use a solid trivet and metal grill or metal spit. Make sure any grill or pot is secure and stable while set over the fire.
7. **Extinguishing the fire:** Note - a bucket of sand is safer for extinguishing a fire that is still very hot (no steam). Suffocate the coals by putting sand on them, followed by water, or put water on the coals, stirring them with the shovel to ensure coals are extinguished. Add more sand as required to suffocate the embers. Make sure coals and ashes are cold to the touch.
8. Post fire, scrape up the coals, ashes and unused fuel and remove them from the site. If a depression was made for the fire, fill the circle with the soil that was removed. Use of a cooking appliance such as a third-barrel requires less clean-up and therefore facilitates a no-trace campfire.
9. Fires are not permitted when a smog alert has been declared, when wind speed exceeds 25 kilometres per hour, or when rain or fog is present or weather conditions prevent the ready dispersion of smoke.