

[EDCT Policies](#)

**Parks Open Air Burning Policy**

---

**Division:** Parks, Forestry and Recreation

**Approved by:** PFR Directors

**Date Approved:** December 4, 2007

**Category:** Parks, Forestry and Recreation

**Sub-cat:** Parks

**Policy Statement**

This policy addresses requirements and procedures relating to open air burning on city-owned parkland.

[Form - Fire Safety Checklist-Protocol.doc](#)

**Type:** application/msword  
**Name:** Form - Fire Safety Checklist-Protocol.doc

**Definition**

"Open air burning" is a fire set outside, for the purpose of cooking food, providing warmth or recreational enjoyment by burning clean, dry seasoned wood, or commercially produced charcoal, briquette in such a manner that the products of combustion (e.g. smoke) resulting from fires are emitted directly into the air.

**Types of Open Air Burns**

The two types of open air burning fires are:

Designated Open Air Burns;

- Existing parks with identified fire pits;
- Site(s) have been pre-approved by the Director of Parks and the Chief Fire Official;

- Site(s) to be reviewed annually by Director of Parks with the Chief Fire Official, including site inspection as required;
- All requests for use and scheduling are coordinated through Parks, Forestry and Recreation Customer Service for external permit holders and through Community Recreation for internal or partnership permit holders

#### Non Designated Open Air Burns;

- Customer Service will accept permit requests and work in consultation with the local Parks Supervisor.
- Site(s) to be approved by the Director of Parks and the Chief Fire Official, prior to permit issuance.

### Procedure

Requests to seek permission for open air burning on city-owned parkland must submit their request, in writing, to Parks, Forestry and Recreation Customer Service.

1. PFR Customer Service staff will review the written submission, including a site plan, with the local Parks Supervisor and the Chief Fire Official;
2. The Parks Supervisor will conduct a site visit to review the proposed location and layout as required, the safety measures proposed, the supervision arrangements proposed, the time of year, the time of day, anticipated weather conditions and other environmental factors;
3. Customer Service will ensure the user group has secured general liability insurance for a minimum of two million dollars, naming the City of Toronto as additional insured.

The Director of Parks and/or the Fire Chief Official may:

- Attach such conditions as deemed appropriate to any permit granted for an open air burning;
- Authorize and issue permit if the proposal is approved; and
- Conduct a post evaluation to address any potential issues that may have arisen, including the permit holder covering all costs associated with parkland rehabilitation. (E.g. turf repair, litter clean up, property damage).

## General Provisions

The Ontario Fire Code and the City of Toronto Parks Bylaw prohibit all open air burning. Exceptions must be approved by the Director of Parks and the Chief Fire Official; Subject to the provisions of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 608, Parks, Section 10, Campfires and barbeques.

The following regulations shall apply with respect to open air burnings for recreational purposes:

Open air burning may be conducted between the hours of 10 AM and 10 PM only, unless otherwise posted;

Permitted open air burning shall be contained within non combustible containers or pits specifically designed for open air burnings;

No materials other than commercially produced charcoal, briquette or clean, dry seasoned wood may be burned;

Open burning shall be conducted in such a manner as to preclude the escape from the fire of combustible solids such as sparks and ash;

The dimensions of the fuel being burnt shall not be greater than the size of the container or fire pit and shall be totally confined within the container or pit at all times;

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 mineralsoil;
- The Designated Open Air Burn site(s) is set at least 6.08 metres (20 feet) from any combustible structures or objects and the space above the burn is at least 6.08 metres (20 feet) from vegetation and the drip line (overhanging branches) of trees.
- The Non-Designated Open Air Burn site is set at least 3.04 metres (10 feet) from any combustible structures

or objects and the space above the burn is at least 3.04 metres (10 feet) from vegetation and the drip line (overhanging branches) of trees.

An effective extinguishing agent of sufficient size and with the capability of extinguishing the fire shall be immediately available;

Open air burnings shall be attended, controlled and supervised by an adult person at all times and shall be completely extinguished before the open air burn site is vacated;

Open air burnings 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;

Prohibited burn materials include household waste, construction waste, rubber or rubber products, plastic or plastic products, and waste petroleum products, pressure treated wood, creosote treated wood and any material or materials which are prohibited by the Environmental Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter E.19, as amended.