

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
Division of Forests and Lands
FOREST PROTECTION BUREAU



OUTDOOR FIRE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CAMPING AND CAMPING AREAS

1. All outdoor fires require a written permit from the Forest Fire Warden of the town where the fire is to be kindled, any time the ground is not covered with snow. A public campground may obtain a seasonal category I or Category II fire permit for approved fireplaces present at the facility.
2. **“Category I Fire”** means a small controlled fire, such as a camp or cooking fire, no greater than 2’ in diameter contained within a ring of fire resistive material or in a portable fireplace. A category I fire, conditions permitting, may be kindled with a permit at any time of day whether raining or not.
3. **“Category II Fire”** means a controlled fire, such as a camp or cooking fire, no greater than 4’ in diameter contained within a ring of fire resistive material or in a portable fireplace. A category II fire, conditions permitting, may only be kindled with a permit between the hours of 5:00 pm and 9:00 am unless it is actually raining.
4. All fireplaces shall be approved by the Forest Fire Warden and meet the following recommendations:
 - A) Be on an area cleaned to mineral soil at least eight feet across. Where fires are built on the ground, there should be at least six inches of sand or gravel under the fire.
 - B) Have no limbs or other burnable material within a height of ten feet above the fireplace.
 - C) Fire placed shall be constructed so they can’t be moved from their mineral soil area.
 - D) Fireplaces shall not be used for the disposal or waste or rubbish.
 - E) Fireplaces shall be cleaned and the ashes disposed of properly after insuring that they are cold to the touch.
 - F) Before additional fireplaces are added to a campground or camping area, they must be inspected and approved by the Forest Fire Warden.
6. In areas where charcoal grills are used, a well marked container for the safe disposal of ashes from these fires shall be available.
7. Fire protection and suppression equipment such as hand tools, portable pumps and an adequate water supply shall be readily available in all areas where open fires are permitted.
8. In campgrounds/camping areas where entrance and/or exit roads could limit campers’ ability to flee an uncontrolled fire; the Forest Fire Warden shall make recommendations for the elimination of such condition(s) to people responsible for the area.
9. Regulations for fires in campgrounds/camping areas shall be posted and available to all campers.

10. Campground and camping area operation shall keep abreast of current fire dangers and be prepared for fire permit restrictions or bans when they are in effect.
11. Failure to comply with all applicable rules and regulations may result in the fire permit being summarily suspended.
12. **ANY** person violating the fire permit law and its provisions, and any person who willfully or recklessly kindles a fire that endangers woodlands, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine up to \$2,000 and/or up to one year in jail, or both.