

## Township Fire Wardens

### Benton Township

Hilary & Irene Drees - (952) 466-2531

### Camden Township

Gerald Goede - (952) 353-2390

Patricia & Marcus Lhotka - (952) 467-2129

Phyllis & Virgil Stender - (952) 467-3055

Linda Sauerbrey - (952) 657-2431

### Dahlgren Township

Gene Miller - (952) 466-5537

Mary Olson - (952) 448-5219

### Hancock Township

Tony Chevalier - (952) 466-2026

Thomas Herrmann - (952) 466-5651

Marlin Melcher - (952) 466-5844

Dick Olson - (952) 466-5663

Kevin Sons - (952) 467-2817

### Hollywood Township

Charles Schuft - (952) 353-2342

### Laketown Township

Melissa Lano—(952) 442-5278

Karen McMullen - (952) 442-5278

Richard Mueller - (952) 442-5278

James Schilling - (952) 442-5278

### San Francisco Township

Denise Anderson - (952) 466-2241

Ida Felton - (952) 873-6754

Jim Olson - (952) 466-2569

### Waconia Township

Sue Goede - (952) 657-2221

### Watertown Township

Mike Dressen - (952) 955-1687

Si Tesh - (952) 955-1120

### Young America Township

Brad Schrupp - (952) 467-2850

Ron Trick - (952) 467-3013

## Questions?

**Carver County Environmental Services**

**(952) 361-1800**

**[www.co.carver.mn.us](http://www.co.carver.mn.us)**



# OPEN BURNING PERMIT PROGRAM

## *Answers to Frequently Asked Questions*

*Residents living within the cities of **Chanhassen, Chaska, Cologne, Mayer, New Germany, NYA, Victoria, Waconia** and **Watertown** should contact their local authority as these municipalities are excluded from the Carver County Open Burning Permit Program. Please look inside for contact information.*

### Who regulates open burning within Carver County?

The MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has regulations regarding open burning and requiring permits. Carver County has passed an ordinance that incorporates local and state standards. Local municipalities may be more restrictive.

### When is an open burning permit needed?

Open burning permits are required year round in Carver County, regardless of snow cover, for all fires except recreational fires under three feet in height and three feet in diameter (*certain municipalities may require a permit for recreational fires*).

What material can I burn? The only materials that can be burned are tree debris and other vegetation (except leaves).

No person shall conduct, cause or permit the open burning of any material that was not generated at the site of the open burn. It is acceptable to use material not generated on site for recreational fires, as long as all rules pertaining to transporting tree debris are followed (ie; emerald ash borer).

Permits for running fires over one (1) acre and permits for structure fires must be reviewed and approved by the DNR. Permits for running fires of one acre or less can be obtained online or by contacting Carver County.

May I burn my garbage? No. Solid waste generated from homes, businesses or farms may not be burned. Farm properties are permitted to burn bailing twine and paper feed sacks without plastic liners.

May I burn another person's waste? No. Permits may only be issued for materials generated at the property on which the open burn is located. You may not haul waste from another property and burn it on your property.

### How do I obtain an open burning permit?

Open burning permits can be obtained online by visiting the DNR's website at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/burningpermits> or by contacting a local Fire Warden or Carver County Environmental Services. Fire Wardens may only issue permits to residents within their jurisdiction.

### How long does an open burning permit last?

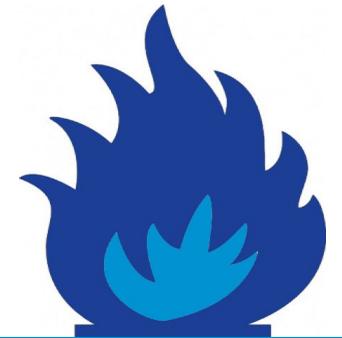
Open burning permits will be valid from the time of purchase through the end of the calendar year in which it was purchased.

### How much does an open burning permit cost?

A permit fee of \$5.00 is collected at the time of applying for a permit on the DNR's burning permit online service. The burning permit online service fee shall be set by the DNR.

Application and permit fees for permits reviewed or issued by the County shall be set by resolution of the Carver County Board of Commissioners. The current permit fee is \$5.00.

A Fire Warden or other local authority may require application or permit fees for permits issued in their jurisdiction. These fees may be set and amended by resolution by the designated local authority as it deems necessary.



*Website: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/>*

### What information will I need to complete the online application process?

- You must be the landowner or have written permission of the landowner to burn at the burn site location.
- Information about the type of burn (piled material, grass field, garden plot etc.)
- Location of the burn, either an address (E-911 compatible) or the legal description (available on your property tax statement)
- Credit/Debit card (Mastercard or Visa)
- Printer - to print your completed permit (you must have printed permit with you while conducting your burning operation)
- A valid email account. An email account is required by the banking system to process your credit card payment. In addition, the email account will allow you to reprint a permit at a later date if it is misplaced or destroyed and will save entry time in the future as much of the information you need to enter will be saved in the system.

### What do I need to do before I can burn?

The permit holder cannot conduct the burn until they have requested activation of the permit. The permit holder may activate on-line during the application process if purchasing the permit through the DNR website, or by calling the DNR burn activation line listed below. Activation will only be possible if burning conditions are favorable. The permit holder will receive an activation code that they must write on their permit in the space provided. The permit, along with a valid activation code must be present while conducting the burn. **The permit holder must activate the permit each time they burn.**

DNR Burn Activation Line:

**1-866-533-BURN(2876)**

### Do I need to be present while the fire is burning?

Yes. Every open burn event shall be constantly attended by the permit holder or his or her competent representative. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to have a valid permit on site and available for inspection. The fire shall be completely extinguished before the permit holder or his or her representative leaves the site.

### What setbacks are required for an open burn?

Open burning shall not be conducted within 100 feet of any structure or within 50 feet of a stream, river, lake or other water body. Recreational fires shall not be located closer than 25 feet to any structure.

### Who do I call if I see an illegal burn or a wildfire?

Report any illegal burn or wildfire by dialing 911. The best policy is, "If in doubt, report it." An early report of a fire enables a quicker response time and helps to keep fires small.

In reporting a fire, providing complete information is extremely important. Accurate information will help determine how many firefighters and how much equipment may be needed to put the fire out.

What are the penalties for violating the ordinance requirements? The responsible party will be responsible for all costs incurred as a result of the burn, including, but not limited to, fire suppression, tickets, citations and permit fees.

What are burning restrictions? The DNR institutes burning permit restrictions in the fire prone portions of the state each spring. During this period of traditionally high fire danger, burning permits are not issued. A variance to permit open burning, however, may be obtained for special circumstances such as prescribed fire projects. **Variances may only be issued by the DNR.** Recreational fires are still permissible under annual spring restrictions.

### How are the dates for burning restrictions determined?

Restrictions are determined based on the availability and condition of the fine flashy fuels. These fuels are referred to as one and ten hour fuels. One-hour and ten-hour fuels are the smaller fine fuels that can be totally wet, and when conditions change (sun comes out, winds pick up), they can dry and burn in a matter of hours.

The vegetation in the fields, swamps, and other open areas is standing dead (cured) and will not increase in moisture content except by local weather patterns. The fire danger in these areas remains a concern until new vegetation comes in (green up).

These fine fuels (usually grass and small brush) are the majority of fires responded to each year as, when they are dry, they ignite easily and can spread fire quickly. Therefore, when restrictions are put in place each spring, these are the fuels taken into consideration. Thus, it is possible that, even though there may be snow in the woods, restrictions will be put in place due to the open fields being snow free.

Once restrictions are established in an area, they remain in place until green up occurs and fire danger is drastically reduced.

What is a burning ban? Under extremely Dry conditions, the Commissioner of Natural Resources, or another unit of government, may declare a "burning ban" for a specified Area Within the state. When this occurs, not only existing permits are canceled and new permits not issued, but burning in approved burners, recreational fires, and even smoking outdoors may be prohibited, depending on the fire danger. This action is generally taken when fire\conditions become extreme across a broad area of the state (for example, a number of counties or large geographic region).

### I live within city limits, can I obtain an open burning permit through the DNR online permit system or Fire Warden?

Permits will not be available to residents within the following city limits. For more information, please contact the local authority listed for your municipality.

#### City of Chanhassen

Mark Littfin at (952) 227-1151 or  
Ed Coppersmith at (952) 227-1152

#### City of Chaska

Kevin Gravalin, Fire Marshal at (952) 227-7524

#### City of Cologne

City Hall at (952) 466-2064

#### City of Mayer

Fire Chief at (612) 554-5477

#### City of New Germany

Fire Chief at (952) 353-2257 or  
City Hall at (952) 353-2488

#### City of Norwood Young America

City Hall at (952) 467-1800

#### City of Victoria

City Hall at (952) 443-4242

#### City of Waconia

Fire Chief at (651) 357-3155

#### City of Watertown

Fire Department at (952) 955-1135

Permits will be available to residents within the following city limits.

#### City of Carver

#### City of Hamburg

**Website:** <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/burningpermits>

**Activation Line:** 1-866-533-BURN(2876)