



The Provincial Government has released the following:

A ban on open fires is now in effect for all of NL. The ban specifically prohibits the setting of all open fires on forest land or within 300 meters of forest land for all regions of the province. Click the link to view the release:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2020/flr/0422n02/>

The provincial ban does not include the use of outdoor fire pits, wood burning ovens, chimeneas or fire barrels **nor are permits required**. However, please refer to backyard fireplace safety tips below.

Backyard Fireplace Safety Tips

Safety

- Always use caution when burning in an outdoor fire pit, wood burning oven, chimenea or fire barrel. During the summer, many people enjoy gathering around a fire. However, outdoor fireplaces can be harmful if not used properly, and can be bothersome to surrounding neighbours.

Guidelines

- Backyard fireplaces should be built into the ground, or on brick, stone or other non-combustible surface with a minimum surface area of 1.5 metres.
- Wood burning devices must be at least 3.5 meters away from your property line, house, garage, fence or flammable materials like trees, branches, and plants.
- A mesh screen or spark guard is required to reduce the spread of embers and sparks. The openings in the mesh screen should not be greater than 0.5 inches across.
- Fires should not be lit if wind speeds exceed 15 km/hr.
- Only burn clean, dry firewood.

Do Not Burn

- Wood that is painted, treated or contains glue or resin
- Wet or green/fresh cut wood
- Yard waste (cut grass or leaves)
- Garbage
- Rubber or plastic
- Furniture

Consider Your Neighbours

- Smoke from wood burning devices or fireplaces can cause adverse health effects in some people. Be aware of neighbours that may be negatively impacted from the exposure of smoke from these devices.
- Does your neighbour have laundry drying on the clothesline? Give a courtesy call to let them know you are planning to light the backyard fire and give a time, so they can bring in their freshly washed clothes.
- Check wind speeds. High winds speeds may send smoke long distances or pose a fire hazard. Low wind speeds will not disperse smoke and can contribute to poor air quality. Follow the wind speed limit outlined above.
- Be aware of the noise you are making and follow the Town's noise bylaws. Quiet hours are 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. the following day.

Remember

- In case of emergency, always have a water hose or 20 litres of water minimum nearby.
- Never leave children unsupervised around a fire.
- Air exchangers can cause problems by filling neighbouring homes with smoke.

Permits are not required for a backyard fireplace, but you are required to follow [Portugal Cove-St. Philip's Open Air Burning Regulations](#).

Please observe social distancing while enjoying the outdoors....Stay Safe!

Questions?

- Contact the Portugal Cove-St. Philip's Fire Department at (709) 895-8000 ext. 257. Or email chief@pcsp.ca