



# PIVFD FIRE PERMIT REQUIREMENTS & RESTRICTIONS

Your legal obligations when undertaking an open fire are that YOU should be able to control the fire and prevent a wildfire.

Checking for any prohibition that might cover your area ensures you have consulted with fire professionals who have considered the current fire danger and upcoming weather. Your responsibility also extends to not burning during windy conditions and should winds spring up, you need to be able to extinguish your fire.

A fuel break around the burn area must be constructed and maintained during the burn. It is easy for burning debris to fall out of the burning area, and bridge your fuel break. You must monitor the fire break to ensure that it is not compromised. You must have an adequate fire suppression system at the burn location. What this means depends on the size and location of your burn, but if you are within a yard, a connected and charged water hose is sensible.

You must engage in a "fire watch and patrol", and have at least one hand tool to prevent the fire from escaping. For backyard burning, this can be a shovel or rake that you use to maintain your fuel break and push fallen debris back into the fire zone. Most importantly, put it out before you leave the area. The temptation is to just let the fire die down on itself, to consume the last little bits in the fire. People who do this do not understand how quickly a fire can escape. A break in the clouds can warm the area quickly and a bit of wind can whip the fire up and cause it to run.

Be respectful of the potential of open fires, and ensure that any burning you undertake is safe for you and your neighbors.

Air quality is legislated by the Ministry of Environment (MOE) and venting indexes are available at <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/venting/venting.html> These forecasts indicate the likelihood of smoke dissipating well, and are part of the obligations under the regulatory framework governing air quality.

The Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation (OBSCR) outlines obligations for smoke emissions from open fire. For most open burning, venting must be "good" for the day of an open burn.

## Piers Island Bylaw 71 includes the following regarding burning on Piers Island:

- No person shall light, ignite or maintain any fire or permit in the open air without first obtaining a permit from the Fire Chief or his designate.
- Permits are required from April 15<sup>th</sup> to October 16<sup>th</sup> but these dates may change by order of the Fire Chief if conditions warrant
- A permit can be withheld or cancelled if the Fire Chief or his designate feel there is a potential hazard to persons or property
- A permit is not required for the burning of domestic waste in an incinerator if a Burn Ban is not in place – subject to Sections 1, 2 (4), 5 & 6 of Bylaw 71
- Burning of any type of combustible material greater than 2 cubic meters in size ( eg. A pile 6 feet x 3 feet x 3 feet) REQUIRES a permit year round. (N. Saanich uses 3x3x3)
- Regardless of the requirement to obtain a permit, a competent adult must supervise any burning and ensure that any equipment necessary for fire control is available. (charged hose & shovel or rake)

**As per the Wildfire Act – no fire may be left unattended – it must be EXTINGUISHED before you leave**

Permit Applicant - \_\_\_\_\_ Lot # \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Description of fire location: \_\_\_\_\_

- Proposed area is less than 6' x 3' x 3' and there is sufficient clearance from all combustibles
- Charged hose line is on and in readiness close to the area
- Shovel and/or rake is present to keep fire break clear and push debris into the designated area
- I will check the venting index before burning  I will notify PIVFD when the burn takes place.

X \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that the fire will not be left unattended and will be extinguished when leaving the site.

Permit issued by : \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_