



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



TOWN OF ELLINGTON
by Town Ordinance



DEPARTMENT OF
TOWN FIRE MARSHAL
Administrator
860-870-3126

ELLINGTON OPEN BURNING PROGRAM
OPEN BURNING of BRUSH on RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

(This Application is for the open burning of brush upon residential property. Application for other types of fires requires a different form which must be obtained directly from the Department of Town Fire Marshal.)

OPEN COOKING FIRES or CAMPFIRES on SINGLE or TWO-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY and ENCLOSED (UL approved appliances) COOKING FIRES on ANY PROPERTY EXCEPT FORESTS and WOODLANDS DO NOT REQUIRE PERMITS.

APPLICATION and PERMIT (Fee: \$15.00 Non-refundable)

The Open Burning Program is adopted in primary form from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and supplemented by an Ellington Town Ordinance as proposed by the Ellington Board of Selectmen and adopted by the legislative body of the Town. The Program is administered by the Ellington Department of Town Fire Marshal.

The reading and understanding of the information presented herein **PRIOR TO THE COMPLETION OF THE APPLICATION FORM** is a necessary part of the application process and will require only a few minutes. The form is not complicated and is designed to be completed in most instances within three minutes or less, after the reading.

The Open Burning Program is structured to accommodate homeowners in need of disposing of small amounts of ornamental tree trimmings, garden materials and branches and brush generally accumulated as a result of our New England winters. The Program recognizes commercial farmers and attempts to accommodate them with their vegetation management, as well. Generally, however, it must be recognized that Connecticut discourages open burning and favors alternatives such as stockpiling the brush for animal cover, chipping the materials or hauling the materials to a brush dump. The Program is not suitable for general lot clearing operations of any kind. New building construction and changes of land use require more aggressive and more environmental friendly methods of clearing the land.

The application form provided in this packet is designed to address all of the concerns of both the State of Connecticut and the Town of Ellington

To begin, an applicant must first determine the likelihood of qualifying for a permit because the fee, which must be submitted with the application, is generally not refundable.

To qualify, the applicant must:

1. reside upon the property where the open burning is to occur (farmers are generally exempt);
2. must be an owner of that property or must have an owner sign the application along with the applicant (farmers are generally exempt);
3. must be physically able to control the fire;
4. must have a means available instantly to control and extinguish the fire;
5. must have an approved permit upon his person during the burning; and
6. must have an address house number clearly visible in compliance with the Town House Numbering Ordinance (farmers are generally exempt);

The proposed open burning project itself must meet certain minimum conditions. Specific conditions are set out in the Town Open Burning Ordinance.

1. The material to be burned must be brush and/or tree trimmings only, not larger than three (3) inches in diameter (farmers may burn other vegetation under certain conditions);
2. leaves, tree trunk parts, stumps, demolition debris, grass clippings, garden vegetation and other materials are not permitted (farmers see #1, above) and will result in denial of the application;
3. the pile(s) must be constructed and ready for inspection prior to actual application for a Permit- this prevents non-productive site visits by the Inspector;
4. the size and number of pile(s) should be suitable to the general area so as to prevent any disturbances to neighbors, the motoring public, etc., because complaints will result in the Permit being declared null and void.
5. clearances of the pile(s) from each other, from property lines, from other combustible materials, and from overhead trees must be properly maintained.

Applicants should understand that when a permit application is approved, the Permit is issued only for the dates set down on that Permit. Careful consideration should be given to the dates requested. However, there is no guarantee that the dates you are assigned will be the dates requested. If the applicant cannot burn due to other matters requiring his/her attention or an unsuitable fire index or unsuitable weather the Permit expires and becomes null and void. The Permit cannot be extended except for extenuating circumstances. Therefore, applicants applying during the high hazard period, generally considered to be mid March through June, should consider this carefully. Alternative methods may be appropriate.

Even with an approved Permit, weather conditions are an important part of whether or not an applicant can actually burn. Wind must be between 5 and 15 mph and it must be a sunny or partly sunny day. You cannot burn before 10:00 am or after 5:00 pm. The air quality index must be less than 75 and the forest fire index cannot be higher than "Moderate". It is your responsibility to ascertain these indexes by utilizing the information presented upon the Open Burning Permit. While it is often considered easier to burn materials than to chip in place or haul to the Town Brush Dump, the legal parameters for burning are such that it may require more than one permit and several adjustments to an applicant's schedule to actually accomplish the burning. Serious consideration should be given to chipping the material in place or hauling (or hiring another to haul) the brush to the brush dump on Hoffman Road. The hours of service may be obtained by reviewing the Town Report or by calling Public Works (860-870-3140).

It may take several days to process an application and return via U.S. Mail an approved permit to the applicant. Sufficient time must be allowed for this process. **Recommended lead time is 7 working days.**

Your signature on the application form certifies that you have read and understand the material presented within this entire application packet. It also authorizes an Inspector to enter upon the subject property without an appointment and without your attendance for the purpose of processing this application.



PERMIT NO.:

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant Name:	Applicant Full Legal Address of Residence:		
Phones: Home: _____ Cell: _____ Work: _____	E-mail: _____		
Applicant to Check Box for Declaration: <input type="checkbox"/> I DECLARE THAT I AM A RESIDENT OF THE ADDRESS SHOWN ABOVE, THAT THIS PROPERTY HAS A CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY, THAT THIS ADDRESS IS THE LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED BURN AND THAT I WILL ABIDE BY THE CONDITIONS OF THIS PERMIT.			
Signature of Applicant:		Date of Application:	
Describe the EXACT and PRECISE location of the proposed open burning upon your property and <u>provide sketch on reverse</u> :			
Explain your proposed method of controlling and extinguishing the open burn: _____			
List the dates that you are requesting for the proposed open burning(maximum of 5 days): _____			

PERMIT CONDITIONS

- This is a valid permit only when signed by the Local Open Burning Official.
- This permit DOES NOT relieve the permittee of any legal liability which may be incurred as a result of the fire.
- Failure to adhere to the conditions of the permit may result in penalties and/or other enforcement actions.

This Permit is NOT Valid Under the Following Conditions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When national or state ambient air quality standards may be exceeded; • Where a hazardous health condition might be created; • When the Air Quality Index (AQI) is predicted to be 75 or higher anywhere in the state as indicated in the table "Predicted Daily AQI Maximums for Month/Day/Year" as found at www.ct.gov/deep/aqi; • When the Forest Fire Danger level is high, very high or extreme, as found at www.ct.gov/deep/forestfiredanger except that there shall be no regard for any reference to distance from woodlands; • When there is an advisory from the State of CT DEEP of any air pollution episode.
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General Conditions: Applicable to ALL Permits	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Open Burning is limited to the burning of brush only, on residential property upon which the permittee resides. Only Brush (defined as shrubs, vegetation or prunings, the diameter of which is not greater than three inches at the widest point) may be burned. Burning upon property not zoned as residential is prohibited. 2- Burning must cease if so directed by any member of the Town Fire Marshal's Office, any officer of the fire department, any designated municipal official responsible for enforcing the open burning laws and ordinances, any police officer, or any official of the Connecticut Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). 3- During the burn all reasonable measures to assure complete combustion and reduce excessive smoke are to be taken; however, introduction of flammable or combustible liquids in unlawful. 4- At no time during the burning shall the fire be left unattended. 5- Upon completion of the burning, all embers and coals must be extinguished and then completely wetted, so as to prevent smoldering and fugitive ash emissions. 6- All reasonable safety precautions are to be taken, including the clearing of grass and trees in the burn area, wetting down of the surrounding area, and placement of fire extinguishers and hose lines. 7- This permit must be IMMEDIATELY available on site during the burn. 8- Burning may be conducted only between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm on a sunny or partly sunny day with the wind speed between five and fifteen mph. Full extinguishment (see Condition 5, above) must be accomplished prior to 5:00 pm. 9- Burning shall not create a nuisance to nearby properties. 10- Burning MUST be conducted in conformance with the Ellington OPEN BURNING ORDINANCE, available at Ellington-CT.gov in the Code of Town of Ellington, Chapter 74 Fire Prevention, Article II, Open Burning. 11- Violation of the conditions of this Permit may cause the forfeiture of your ability to qualify for future permits.
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THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE LOCAL OPEN BURNING OFFICIAL

Special Conditions: Applicable Only When Checked	<input type="checkbox"/> Burning may be initiated only in the presence of the Open Burning Official. <input type="checkbox"/> A fire crew and appropriate apparatus must be stationed at the burning site. <input type="checkbox"/> Burning may NOT take place when the wind is from the _____ direction. <input type="checkbox"/> Final verbal approval must also be obtained on the day of and prior to the burning by calling: _____. <input type="checkbox"/> See Particular Ellington Open Burning Ordinance requirements: <input type="checkbox"/> Other Conditions:
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This application is DENIED for the following reason(s):

This permit is GRANTED. Burning may be conducted for a maximum of _____ days ONLY, and ONLY on the following dates:

Signature of Open Burning Official:	Date:
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