



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**



**TOWN OF ELLINGTON
by Town Ordinance**



**DEPARTMENT OF
TOWN FIRE MARSHAL
Administrator
860-870-3126**

ELLINGTON OPEN BURNING PROGRAM

APPLICATION and PERMIT (\$15.00 FEE)

(This Application is for the open burning of brush upon residential property and farms. 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 COOKING FIRES ON ANY PROPERTY EXCEPT FORESTS AND WOODLANDS
DO NOT REQUIRE PERMITS.***

The Open Burning Program is adopted in primary form by the Connecticut Department of 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 is a necessary part of the application process and will require a few minutes **PRIOR TO THE COMPLETION OF THE APPLICATION FORM**. 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. 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, by calling the Fire Marshal's Office (870-3126) or by calling Public Works (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. Minimum lead time is 7 working days. Your signature authorizes an Inspector to enter upon the subject property without an appointment and without your attendance for the purpose of processing this application.