



Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service

Fire Prevention Branch

Open Air Fire Permit Information

Open-air fires are regulated under the Neighborhood Livability Bylaw. Permits are issued at the Fire Prevention Branch.

The City of Winnipeg has established revised standards and requirements for all open-air fires regulated under the Neighborhood Livability Bylaw.

These revisions include specific permit and fee requirements for all open-air fires ignited for various purposes on all properties except single-family residential properties.

Permits and fees will be required for, but not necessarily limited to, open air fires such as bonfires, burning of crop residues, disposal of wood, and warming fires. A fee will be required for such occurrence. Religious and / or ceremonial fires **may** require a permit but **no fee** will be charged.

➤ **Where do I apply?**

Apply for permits at the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service, Fire Prevention Branch office located at 185 2nd Floor, or they can be obtained online at www.winnipeg.ca/fps.

➤ **What are the payment methods for the permit?**

Payment can be made at the time of application by cash, credit card, Interac, or cheque made payable to the City of Winnipeg.

➤ **What are the requirements for having a bonfire?**

- The Permit must be retained on site and provided for examination if so requested.
- Only dry seasoned firewood is permitted to be ignited.
- The bonfire must be limited in size so that it may be readily controlled.
- Maintain a minimum of 8 m (25 feet) from any combustible buildings, structures, trees or overhead wires.
- Additional requirements are listed on the reverse side of the Open-Air Fire Permit.

➤ **What are the requirements for burning agricultural by-products?**

The Open-Air Fire Permit is valid only if the adjacent area is included in the allocated Burn District as stipulated by local/provincial authorities, or otherwise approved by the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service.

Manitoba Agriculture must be contacted at 1-800-265-1233 for the status of permitted crop residue burning prior to any burning.

➤ **What are the requirements for burning brush, tree limbs, prunings, or disposal of wood?**

Before igniting any open-air fire, be sure that a valid Open-Air Fire Permit is on site and available for examination upon request by a Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service employee.

The fire shall be maintained in an acceptable area that may require an inspection for suitability and must be limited to the disposal of trees infected with Dutch Elm or similar type infectious disease or riverbank clean up.

In the case of riverbank clean up or other requests for open-air burning, every effort must be made to remove the debris from the site whenever possible and disposal made at an approved landfill site. If however, extenuating circumstances dictate that it be extremely difficult or onerous to remove the debris, it may be burned on site providing the following conditions are strictly adhered to:

- The fire must be limited in size so as to be easily controllable by the person in charge.
- The fire must be under constant adult supervision at all times and all burning restricted to daylight hours.
- A portable fire extinguisher, garden hose connected to a water supply, or other acceptable means of extinguishment is kept on site.
- The fire is fully and completely extinguished before leaving the site.

Should the fire become uncontrollable, phone 911.

➤ **What about religious or ceremonial fires?**

- All fires set for religious or ceremonial purposes must be maintained in an “acceptable” receptacle as per the By-law, unless the Permit authorizing the fire states otherwise.
- Be limited in size so that it may be readily controlled and any combustible materials kept a safe distance from the fire.
- Must never be left unattended until and unless fully extinguished.
- Be controllable by having a means of extinguishment on site such as a portable fire extinguisher.

➤ **What about a warming fire?**

A warming fire may be described as any fire set in a receptacle, usually a 45 gallon drum, for the purpose of temporarily warming a person’s body, face and / or hands.

Typically, such warming fire receptacles may be found at various locations such as workers’ picket lines, outdoor skating rinks, winter carnivals, winter festivals, etc.

Where an Open-Air Fire Permit authorizes an outdoor warming fire, the fire must:

- Be set in a metal receptacle in good repair that has a maximum capacity of 225 litres (50 gallons) with all openings entirely covered by removable non-combustible spark arrestors, grills, or mesh with openings no larger than 12 mm (1/2 inch).
- Be fueled only by clean wood.
- Not be fueled by garbage, rubber, plastic, painted, or chemically treated wood
- Be maintained a minimum of 3 m (10 ft.) from any combustible buildings or structures, combustible fences, trees, or overhead wires.

For further information about these or any other types of open-air fires, contact the Fire Prevention Branch at the phone number or address below.

**Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service
Fire Prevention Branch**

2nd Floor, 185 King Street

Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1J1

Phone: 204-986-8200

Email: fireinspections@winnipeg.ca

