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SMITHFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT

"To Help People"

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Open Burning Permit Regulations

In Rhode Island, each community decides if they will allow open burning. The Town of Smithfield Fire Department does allow open burning with restrictions. What can be burned and when is dictated by State Law and applicable Town Ordinances and Regulations.

What Can You Burn?

- Brush, leaves, vines and grasses are the only vegetation that can be burned, nothing bigger than 5" in diameter.
- NO Stumps, Garbage or Construction Debris

Who Can Burn?

- Residential home owners are allowed to have burning permits for their residential property ONLY.
- Residential permits are available during Low Fire Danger days only, as reported daily by State of RI DEM, Division of Forestry.
- Agricultural properties are allowed to have burning permits for their property ONLY.
- Agricultural properties are allowed to burn after:
 - Obtaining a permit from the AHJ
 - Applying for an Air Quality Exemption from the Department of Agriculture
 - Obtaining authorization from the Forestry Department verifying contents of debris
 - Obtaining FAA approval when an excess of smoke may enter a flight path
- Agricultural permits are available during Low Fire Danger days only, as reported by State of RI DEM, Division of Forestry
- Landscaping companies and builders shall not receive a permit unless they are the registered property owner and the permit is not for commercial use.

"We will be the most effective and proactive emergency service and disaster mitigation organization to make Smithfield the safest community to live, work and play."

- **NO Permits shall be issued** to people renting or leasing in residential or apartment type properties.
- **NO Permits shall be issued** for any commercial, industrial, business, storage, or salvage type properties.

NOTE: Landowners clearing their land to build a house are considered commercial operations and must truck all debris to the landfill.

When Can You Burn?

- Burning of brush is allowed from sun up to sun down only.
- Burning authorization may be withdrawn at any time. Such conditions include, but are not limited to:
 - Dry Conditions
 - Windy Conditions
 - Air Quality
 - High Fire Danger
 - Location
 - Determination by the AHJ and/or the State of RI DEM, Division of Forestry

Any Other Rules?

- Brush must be in reasonably sized piles.
- There must be ADULT supervision of the fire at all times, preferably the permit holder.
- There must be an adequate water supply, i.e. garden hose at the fire site.
- Should neighbors complain about the smoke entering their house, the permit holder will be directed to extinguish the fire and the permit shall be revoked. (The smell of smoke in the area is generally not a reason for extinguishment.)
- In addition, if the fire gets away from the permit holder, they will be 100% responsible for suppression costs, damage to others' property and may be subject to fines in accordance with RI General Law.