



## Frequently Asked Questions – Saint John Outdoor Fires By-law

Do I require a permit for my backyard outdoor fireplace?

No. If you are the property owner and your outdoor fireplace meets the intent of the [Saint John Outdoor Fires By-law](#), no permit is required.

What is an outdoor fireplace?

An outdoor fireplace is a manufactured or home-made enclosed device or structure, designed to support an outdoor wood fuel fire. An outdoor fireplace is equipped with a metal mesh cover-like-screen to contain large embers.

What am I allowed to burn in my outdoor fireplace?

Clean dry wood, including non-painted and non-pressure treated waste lumber.

What materials am I **not** permitted to burn in my outdoor fireplace?

You cannot burn petroleum or plastic products, plastic sheathing, garbage of any type, pressure treated wood, construction debris, or any other material which emits noxious smoke or odours.

Can I use a propane fueled outdoor fireplace, fire bowl, or heating appliance during a closed or restricted burn period?

Yes. Propane and similar fueled outdoor fireplaces, fire pits, fire bowls, and heating appliances are exempt from the Saint John Outdoor Fires By-law as well as the burning restrictions associated with the New Brunswick Forest Fire Index.

Are campfires allowed in Rockwood Park Campground during a closed or restricted burn period?

Provided the campfire pit meets the requirements of the Forest Fires Act, park management or the campground owners can choose to permit or not permit campfires during a no or restricted burn hours period.

I live in Saint John; do I have to adhere to New Brunswick Forest Fire Index no burn periods?

Yes, you are obligated to adhere to the New Brunswick Forest Fire Watch no burn periods. It is your responsibility to check the [Government of New Brunswick website](#) for the status of Category 1 fire index. It is updated just after 2:00 p.m. daily.

Can I have a fire in my outdoor fireplace during a closed or restricted burn period?

No, if the New Brunswick Forest Fire Index is indicating 'red' during the day and time you want to burn, you cannot start a fire in your Outdoor Fireplace.



Can I burn grass or brush?

No. The burning of grass or brush is considered a nuisance fire and subject to penalty of \$140 to \$2,100.

If I am burning in my outdoor fireplace on an open burn day, am I responsible for the smoke if my neighbour complains?

Yes. Outdoor fires are a focal point for relaxing, socializing, or story telling and are meant to be enjoyed. However, if the atmospheric conditions are such that smoke from your outdoor fire interferes with your neighbour's enjoyment of their property and if a complaint is made, your outdoor fire will be considered a nuisance fire and extinguished by the Fire Department.

I am hosting a special event and want to place and/or operate an outdoor fireplace(s) on land I do not own, is a permit required?

Yes. With the owner's written permission, you can make application for an open fire by way of submitting a Fire Safety Plan to Saint John Fire. Please contact the Fire Prevention and Investigation Division ([fireprevention@saintjohn.ca](mailto:fireprevention@saintjohn.ca)) of Saint John Fire for Fire Safety Plan requirements and permit review process.

When a permit is required, what is the permit fee?

There is no permit fee.

Where can I get a copy of the Saint John Outdoor Fires By-law?

The Saint John Outdoor Fires By-Law is available online on the [City's website](#) or by contacting the City Clerk's Office at 506-658-4455.