

## **Burn ban June 1**

### **Key Messages:**

- A ban on open fires is in effect to help reduce the risk of wildfires that fire crews need to respond to during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The ban prohibits open fires in woods or within 305 metres (1,000 feet) of woods in any part of the province.
- Domestic brush burning and beach fires are not permitted under the ban.
- Use of backyard appliances like chimineas and fire pits will be temporarily permitted for households if conditions allow.
- People should check the BurnSafe map each day at 2 p.m. to see if burning is permitted in their area before they start a backyard fire. People should also check municipal bylaws as their rules may vary.
- Restrictions do not apply to fires outside the 305 metres (1,000 feet) distance and do not apply to private campgrounds.
- The burn ban will remain in effect until June 1, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.
- Lands and Forestry's wildfire fighters are ready to respond to fire emergencies.
- The public can report wildfires by calling 911 if it's an emergency or call 1-800-565-2224 to report unsafe burning practices.

### **What is the fire ban?**

For most Nova Scotians, the restriction means no open burning is allowed until further notice. The ban prohibits open fires in woods or within 305 metres (1,000 feet) of woods, including domestic brush burning and beach fires.

### **Why was the ban extended?**

The ban on open fires will help protect the health of the province's forests and reduce the number of calls our fire crews need to respond to during COVID-19. The ban has been in place since March and was recently extended to June 1.

### **Will the ban end before June 1?**

The ban will be re-evaluated at the end of May and may be lifted, continued or extended, depending on conditions at the time.

### **What about burning in chimineas, fire pits, and other backyard burning appliances?**

Under the current ban, use of backyard appliances with open fires, like chimineas and fire pits, is temporarily permitted if conditions allow. Before you burn, check the BurnSafe map for daily guidance and check municipal bylaws as their rules may vary.

CSA-approved appliances, such as enclosed wood stoves, Wood Doctor outdoor furnaces or related items equipped with spark arrestors, or propane fire pits, are also permitted.

### **Do I still need to check burn restrictions each day?**

Yes. The BurnSafe map is active again and people should check to see if restrictions are in place before they burn. Restrictions are updated each day.

- Go online to [novascotia.ca/burnsafe](https://novascotia.ca/burnsafe) after 2 p.m. for that day's burn restrictions.
- Call the toll-free phone line at 1-855-564-2876 (BURN) and listen to the recorded message.
- Contact your municipality.

**What about checking municipal bylaws?**

Many municipalities post their burn restrictions online. You can also contact your municipal office or by-law officer for more information on what restrictions may be in place in your area.

**Is the province prepared to deal with wildfires?**

Yes. Nova Scotians are safe. The province continues to operate all essential services, including wildfire response, during the pandemic. Our fire crews are highly skilled and ready to respond to emergencies.

**How will the ban be applied?**

Every Nova Scotian is asked to not burn brush or start fires on the beach. Use of backyard devices is temporarily permitted if conditions allow.

**What should I do if I see someone burning during the ban period?**

Call 911 if it is an emergency or the fire is out of control. Call 1-800-565-2224 to report an unsafe burning practice.

**Who do I contact for more information on the ban?**

Call your nearest Lands and Forestry office for more information on burn restrictions or safe burning practices. A list of contact information is found on our website <https://novascotia.ca/burnsafe/>

**Can I get a permit to burn for agricultural burning?**

Industrial permits with strict requirements will be available for agricultural crop management like blueberries. This change supports the continuation of essential activity that supports our economy, while also keeping strict rules in place to protect the safety of the public, our forests and property, and firefighting resources.

**What about industrial burning?**

There are exemptions that can be made for industrial agriculture. Industrial permits could be issued for crop management, such as blueberries, but they must follow very strict protocols and requirements. Industrial Burning Permits will be postponed for other non-essential activities including agricultural land clearing, other land clearing and other land development.

**Does this include private campgrounds?**

Private campgrounds are exempt from the ban restrictions.

**Why are open fires prohibited?**

The spring warm-up is here and conditions will quickly become dry. The risk of wildfires is high during the spring, and the ban on open fires is a precautionary measure that will reduce potential damage to homes and properties and reduce the number of calls provincial fire crews must respond to and help us maintain our firefighting resources. This is an important part of the province's response measures as we face COVID-19.