

## Approved Outdoor Burning Appliance General Requirements

Managed by: Portage Emergency Services (Fire Department)

Address: 124 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NE

Phone: 204-239-8340

The City of Portage la Prairie Open Air Fire By-law requires a permit for use of an approved outdoor burning appliance. This permit need only be obtained once unless the appliance is moved, and there is no fee for this service.

Outdoor Burning Appliance Permits can be obtained at the Portage Fire Department. Arrangements will be made for an inspection of your appliance in order to make sure that all safety requirements are met.

### **General Requirements:**

1. Material which may be burned shall consist only of charcoal or cut, seasoned wood. The burning of the following material is prohibited:
  - rubbish;
  - garden refuse, lawn clippings or leaves
  - manure;
  - livestock or animal carcasses;
  - any material classified as a dangerous good and any material which, when burned, will generate black smoke or an offensive odour including insulation from electrical wiring or equipment asphalt roofing materials, hydrocarbons, plastics, rubber materials, creosote wood or any similar material.
2. Fires shall be reasonably supervised so as to prevent their spread.
3. Fires shall not be set in windy conditions conducive to creating a running fire or a nuisance to another person.
4. If smoke from a fire causes an unreasonable interference with the use and enjoyment of another person's property, the fire shall be extinguished immediately.

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5. The person to whom the permit is issued is responsible for any or all damages as a result of burning.
  6. Any fire permitted by this by-law shall be contained to a reasonable size so that the fire, or any embers, sparks or smoke emanating therefrom do not endanger any person or property or cause any objectionable effect on nearby property.

### **Open Air Fires (Specific Burn)**

1. It shall be an offence for any person to light, ignite or start or allow or cause to be lighted, ignited or started a fire of any kind whatsoever in the open air without first having obtained the applicable permit to do so from the Fire Chief or designate.
2. A person to whom a permit has been so issued hereunder shall not leave the permitted fire unattended at any time while it is burning or smouldering and shall ensure that sufficient appliances and equipment to prevent the fire from getting beyond control or causing damage or becoming dangerous are at the fire site.
3. Notwithstanding subsection (a), no permit shall be required to light, ignite, or start or allow or cause to be lighted, ignited, or started a small contained fire in a barbecue, grill, or similar device used to cook food.

### **Fire Pits and Outdoor Burning Appliances**

The site of the burning and the receptacle shall be inspected and a permit (Open Air Fire Permit or Approved Outdoor Appliance Permit) obtained from the Portage la Prairie Emergency Services.

#### **1. Fire Pits**

Acceptable fire pit fires shall not be set unless the following measures are taken to limit their spread:

- a) Be limited to a diameter of 1 metre (40 inches) and be ringed with brick, stone or concrete;
- b) The brick, stone, or concrete shall be separated from grass and any other vegetation by a distance of at least 40 cm (16 inches) by means of clean earth, sand, gravel or other non-combustible medium;
- c) A receptacle must be covered with a heavy gauge metal screen with openings not exceeding 1.25 cm (.5 inches); and

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- d) The cooking fire shall be located on private property, a distance of at least 3 metres (10 feet) from any property line, building or other combustible structure.

The Fire Chief or designate may direct that a fire in a fire pit be extinguished or may extinguish a fire that in his opinion is a nuisance or a threat to public safety.

## **2. Cheminea and Portable Fireplaces/Stoves**

(MUST BE ACCEPTABLE MANUFACTURED BURNING APPLIANCES)

- a) Shall not be used on apartment balconies.
- b) Shall not be used indoors.
- c) May be used on a non-combustible surface such as earth, concrete, stone, etc.
- d) Shall not be used on wooden decks unless 3 meters (10 feet) from any property line, building or other combustible structure and placed on a non-combustible surface extending 40 cm (16 inches) from the widest part of the appliance.
- e) Shall be separated from grass and other dry vegetation by a distance of at least 40 cm (16 inches) by means of clean earth, sand, gravel or other non-combustible medium.
- f) Shall be located on private property a distance of at least 3 metres (10 feet) from any property line, building or other combustible structure.
- g) Shall have a spark arrestor mesh screen with openings no larger than 1.25 cm (.5 inches) and constructed of expanded metal (or equivalent non-combustible material) is used to cover the fire pit opening in a manner sufficient to contain and reduce the hazards of airborne sparks.

## **3. Barbecuing**

- a) Every person who uses a barbecue or similar device shall:
  - i. Use the barbecue in a reasonable and safe manner.
  - ii. Keep the barbecue, when lit, the manufacturer's recommended distance from all combustible materials or a minimum of 3 metres (10 feet).
  - iii. A portable grill or barbecue, when used on or near any building containing two (2) or more dwelling units, shall be located on a firm base and be

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firmly anchored not less than 3 metres (10 feet) from any combustible structure.

- iv. Refrain from leaving the barbecue unattended, when lit.
  - v. Keep the barbecue in a reasonable state of repair.
  - vi. Comply with all federal and provincial regulations governing the use and storage of propane cylinders. Propane cylinders must not be repaired, stored or contained within a building.
  - vii. Propane cylinders shall be shut off at the tank valve when not in use.
  - viii. Propane cylinders shall be connected and secured to the barbecue.
  - ix. Propane cylinders shall be kept in an upright position at all times, including when the cylinders are in transit, in service or in storage.
- b) When solid fuel appliances are used, provisions for the storage of ashes or hot coals is limited to approved receptacles.
- c) In addition to the above requirements, if any person uses a barbecue or similar device on a balcony, the following provisions apply:
- i. Solid fuel barbecues or similar cooking devices shall not be used;
  - ii. Propane cylinders must not exceed the 20-pound size.

### Open Air Fire By-Law

An open fire pit is a great way to enjoy the outdoors year-round, but it is important to ensure that yours is safe and legal.

The City of Portage la Prairie has an Open Air Fire By-Law which governs the construction and use of fire pits.

Here are some details outlined in the By-Law

City of Portage la Prairie

### ACCEPTABLE FIRE PIT

