

WHATELY FIRE DEPARTMENT



63 Christian Lane
P.O. Box 516
Whately, MA 01093

John S. Hannum, Chief
413-665-2230



Attention Whately Residents:

The Whately Fire Department is asking residents and guests to abide by the Open Burning laws and regulations (M.G.L. c. 48 § 13 and 310 CMR 7.07 "Open Burning"). This section specifically pertains to open burning. Open burning is allowed between January 15 and May 1 annually between 10 and 4 daily with an open burning permit.

The Whately Fire Department uses an online system to issue, track and control open burning. www.fcburnpermits.com is the site to obtain instructions for open burning and to obtain the FREE open burning permit. The weather conditions typically control the issuing of these permits, the conditions must be proper to be issued an open burning permit.

In a particular stretch in 2016 the Whately Fire Department responded to five illegal burns in four days, the weather was dry, the winds high and there were no burning permits issued because of the weather conditions. This trend is troubling and could result in a huge problem. Burning without an open burning permit could be catastrophic and open burning permits are not issued for that very reason.

The Whately Fire Department incurs a significant cost each time its fire trucks are dispatched to extinguish an illegal burn. Therefore, the Whately Fire Department has adopted a policy that violations of the Open Burning laws and regulations shall result in the following penalties as authorized by M.G.L. c. 48 § 13.

First Offense	\$50.00 and a notice of the law.
Second Offense	\$100.00 plus \$250 per hour for equipment and personnel
Third Offense	\$500.00 plus \$250 per hour for equipment and personnel

Sincerely,

Chief John S. Hannum
Whately Fire Department