

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF DEEP RIVER

BY-LAW 26-2025

**A BY-LAW TO REGULATE THE SETTING OF FIRES WITHIN
THE TOWN OF DEEP RIVER**

WHEREAS Section 11 of the *Municipal Act*, 2001, S.O., c 25, as amended, authorizes Council of local municipalities to regulate matters related to the health, safety and well-being of inhabitants of the municipality;

AND WHEREAS the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act*, 1997, C.O. 1997, c.4, Section 7.1, as amended, states that a council of a municipality may pass By-Laws regulating fire prevention, including the prevention of the spreading of fires, and regulating the setting of open-air fires, including establishing the times during which open air fires may be set;

AND WHEREAS Section 425 of the *Municipal Act*, 2001, S.O., c 25, as amended, authorizes a municipality to pass By-Laws providing that a person who contravenes a By-Law of the municipality is guilty of an offence;

AND WHEREAS the Council for the Corporation of the Town of Deep River enacted By-Law Number 25-2020 on the 10th day of June, 2020 to regulate the setting of fires within the Town of Deep River;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Deep River enacts as follows:

1. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this by-law

- 1.1 **"Approved"** means approved by the Chief Fire Official or their designate.
- 1.2 **"Ban"** means a restriction or prohibition on Fires issued by the Chief Fire Official or their designate.
- 1.3 **"Barbecue"** shall mean a portable or fixed device, including a Hibachi, which is designed and intended solely for the cooking of food in the open air, but does not include devices designed for personal warmth.
- 1.4 **"Building"** means any structure used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use or occupancy, but does not include a non-enclosing open-sided structure.
- 1.5 **"Chief Fire Official"** shall mean the Fire Chief of the Town or their designate.
- 1.6 **"Combustible"** shall mean any material, trees or vegetation, combination of materials, or arrangement of materials in which any portion thereof are highly susceptible to catch fire when exposed to heat, flame, or other burning materials.
- 1.7 **"Dangerous Condition"** shall mean:
 - 1.7.1 A lack of precipitation, which in the opinion of the Chief Fire Official increases the risk of the spread of fire;
 - 1.7.2 Winds, which in the opinion of the Chief Fire Official increases the risk of the spread of fire; or
 - 1.7.3 Any other condition declared by the Chief Fire Official to be a dangerous condition, from time to time, which increases the risk of the

spread of fire.

- 1.8 **"Exempt Fire"** means that, under specified conditions, a particular type or configuration of Fire as set out in Section 3 of this By-Law that does not require an Open-Air Burning Permit or Recreational Fire Permit.
- 1.9 **"Fire"** means any fire set in the open air by any person within the boundaries of the Town.
- 1.10 **"Fire Permit"** shall mean a permit issued by the Chief Fire Official or designate signifying permission to set a Fire and establishing the conditions under which the permit is granted.
- 1.11 **"Incineration Device"** means a device that is operated and Regulated (licensed) under a Certificate of Approval from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and is not subject to the requirements of this By-Law.
- 1.12 **"Made Safe"** means that all reasonable and prudent steps are taken to guard against injury to persons or property due to the fire and may include, but not be limited to erecting barriers and signs; grading of property; demolition of unstable structures; and the removal of residue left from the burning process.
- 1.13 **"Municipal Law Enforcement Officer"** means a Police Officer, or a person appointed by the Corporation of the Town of Deep River for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this By-Law and related provincial offences by authority of the *Ontario Police Services Act*, 1990, as amended.
- 1.14 **"Open Air Burning Permit"** means a written conditional authorization permit issued by the Chief Fire Official or designate, to set or maintain an Open-Air Fire as per any restrictions and conditions contained in this By-Law or as may be specified on the Open-Air Burning Permit itself.
- 1.15 **"Open-Air Fire"** means any Fire set outdoors, or set in a device or appliance located outside of a building, but does not include Recreational Fires, Exempt Fires, or Fires in devices installed outside of a building and that are used as a source of heat or power for the building or that are ancillary to a manufacturing process, and provided that such device is certified for the purpose by a recognized and appropriate agency.
- 1.16 **"Permit Holder"** shall mean any person who is a land owner, or person with pre- approved permission from the real property owner that has been granted a Permit for a Fire by the Town or Chief Fire Official.
- 1.17 **"Person"** shall mean any individual, association, firm, partnership, corporation, agent or trustee and their heirs, executors or other legal representatives of a person.
- 1.18 **"Recreational Fire"** shall mean a Fire that is set outdoors that is not an Open-Air Fire, or Exempt Fire and that is maintained solely for providing warmth and recreational enjoyment.
- 1.19 **"Recreational Fire Permit"** shall mean a permit issued by the Chief Fire Official or designate signifying permission to set a Recreational Fire and establishing the conditions under which the permit is granted.
- 1.20 **"Responsible Person"** means any adult person (18 years of age and older) who, in the opinion of the Municipal Law Enforcement Officer, is capable of exercising the required judgment and capable of performing the necessary actions to control a fire and prevent its unwanted spread.

- 1.21 **"Special Fire"** shall mean a Fire that is set outdoors that is not an Open-Air Fire, or Exempt Fire and that is maintained solely for providing warmth and recreational enjoyment.
- 1.22 **"Special Fire Permit"** shall mean a permit issued by the Chief Fire Official or designate signifying permission to set a Special Fire and establishing the conditions under which the permit is granted.
- 1.23 **"Structure"** means anything constructed or erected, the use of which requires location on or in the ground.
- 1.24 **"Tenant"** means a person or individual with pre-approved written permission, approved by the Town from an owner of the property.
- 1.25 **"Town"** shall mean the Corporation of the Town of Deep River.

2. RESTRICTIONS ON BURNING

- 2.1 No person shall set or maintain an Open-Air Fire, Recreational Fire or Special Fire except an Open-Air Fire for which an Open-Air Burning Permit has been issued, a Recreational Fire for which a Recreational Fire Permit has been issued or a Special Fire for which a Special Fire Permit has been issued.
- 2.2 Every person who has obtained a Permit shall comply with the conditions of the issued Permit.
- 2.3 Only one Burning Permit will be issued per property.
- 2.4 Recreational, Open Air Burning and Special Fire Permits are valid only at the address specified on the Permit (non-transferrable).
- 2.5 Recreational, Open-Air Burning or Special Fire Permits are non-refundable.

3. EXEMPT FIRES

The following types of Fires are exempt from this By-Law and such Fires may be set and maintained anywhere in the Town of Deep River provided that the conditions in this By-Law are fully met:

- 3.1 Cooking Fires
 - 3.1.1 A charcoal, compressed gas, or wood fire, that is confined within a barbecue that is exclusively designed for and being used for the cooking of food for human consumption or heat.
- 3.2 Construction or Maintenance Activities
 - 3.2.1 An appliance of a portable nature which requires an open flame for the heating of a material during a construction or maintenance process, provided such appliance is safe to operate, and provided that it is not operated in such a manner as to create a fire hazard, and provided that the fire is attended at all times by a Responsible Person to supervise it until extinguished.
- 3.3 Other Flaming Devices
 - 3.3.1 Candles, citron torches and similar items, and small fireworks under 50 mm in diameter provided that all the following conditions are met:
 - i. Such devices are not operated in or near dry vegetation; and

- ii. Such devices are not operated in any other place conducive to the development or the spread of fire or explosion; and
 - iii. Such devices are consumer (family) fireworks, or licensed fireworks displays where permitted by other By-Laws passed by the municipality.
- 3.4 Town of Deep River Fire Department
- 3.4.1 Open Air Fires set by the Town of Deep River Fire Department for the purposes of education, training, or other Town of Deep River Fire Department activity.
- 3.5 Special Event Fire
- 3.5.1 Fires at any special event initiated and administered by the Town as authorized by Council and under the advisement of the Chief Fire Official.

4. GENERAL CONDITIONS ON FIRES, RECREATIONAL FIRES

Any person who sets or maintains an Open-Air Fire, Recreational Fire or Special Fire shall be a Responsible Person and must take all necessary steps to ensure that all of the following conditions are met in addition to any other conditions set in this By-Law:

- 4.1 Smoke
- 4.1.1 The smoke or other emissions from the Fire shall not travel to a neighboring property to such an extent or degree that, in the opinion of a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer, Chief Fire Official or designate, or the Ministry of Environment, it may cause discomfort to persons, loss of enjoyment or normal use of the property, interference with normal conduction of business, or damage to property.
- 4.1.2 The Smoke or other emissions from the Fire shall not travel across any public roadway to the extent or degree that, in the opinion of a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer, Chief Fire Official or designate, it may cause a public safety hazard to any person traveling on the roadway.
- 4.2 Clearances
- 4.2.1 Burning is prohibited in any location where the conditions exist such that there is a reasonable probability of such fire spreading to a building, structure, grass or other combustible vegetation or material.
- 4.2.2 Every person who sets or maintains a Recreational Fire shall confine such Fire to an area that is a minimum of 15 feet in all directions (horizontal, vertical) from any combustible structure, combustible vegetation, accumulation of combustible materials.
- 4.3 Material Restricted
- 4.3.1 Except as may be more specifically restricted elsewhere in this By-Law, only the material listed on Schedule "A" may be burned.
- 4.4 Supervision
- 4.4.1 Constant supervision of the fire shall be maintained by a Responsible Person, with the necessary means immediately available to extinguish the fire or limit its spread; and having the means readily at hand to summon the fire department.
- 4.5 Extinguishment
- 4.5.1 At the completion of the burn the Fire shall be completely extinguished

and the burn site shall be made safe before it is left unattended.

5. OPEN AIR BURNING

- 5.1 The Chief Fire Official, or designate, shall review a written Open Air Burning Permit Application Form and shall attend the said property for inspection prior to the approval of burning and issuance of the permit. Schedule "A" materials only will be allowed to be burned by the said real property owner or tenant who has a pre-approved letter from the owner.
- 5.2 Every person shall comply with all of the following conditions for an Open-Air Fire:
 - 5.2.1 Burning is prohibited on any public road allowance or municipal property unless such burning is being conducted by authorized employees or an authorized agency of the Town of Deep River;
 - 5.2.2 A person shall obtain an Open-Air Burning Permit from the Chief Fire Official or designate and shall comply with the conditions of such Permit;
 - 5.2.3 No person shall burn material in an Open-Air Fire other than those materials listed in Schedule "A" of this By-Law;
 - 5.2.4 No person shall set or maintain an Open-Air Fire within 100 feet from any building, combustible structure, combustible vegetation, accumulation of combustible materials, unless written approval is received from the Chief Fire Official or designate;
 - 5.2.5 Every person who sets or maintains an Open-Air Fire shall confine such fire to a location that provides for a minimum distance of 40 feet in all directions from adjacent properties;
 - 5.2.6 Every person who sets or maintains an Open-Air Fire shall not burn any pile of material exceeding 36 sq. feet in area and 4 feet in height unless written approval is received from the Chief Fire Official or designate;
 - 5.2.7 Every person who sets and maintains an Open-Air Fire shall do so no earlier than two (2) hours before sunset, and all persons shall extinguish the Open-Air fire no later than two (2) hours after sunrise, unless written approval is received from the Chief Fire Official or designate;
 - 5.2.8 Every person who sets or maintains an Open-Air Fire shall attend, control and supervise the Fire at all times and shall completely extinguish the Fire before the fire site is vacated;
 - 5.2.9 Every person shall pay the prescribed fee as set out in the By-Law to Establish and Required Payment of Fees and Charges for an Open-Air Burning Permit. The fee collected as set out in the By-Law is non-refundable regardless of whether or not the privileges granted under the permit have been exercised. No adjustment or refund of fee shall be provided due to suspension or revocation of any Open-Air Burning Permit.

6. RECREATIONAL AND SPECIAL FIRES

- 6.1 Recreational and Special Fire Permits may only be obtained by an owner of real property, or by those who provide the Town with written permission,

approved by the Town, from an owner of real property, permitting the respective person to set a Recreational or Special Fire on said real property and to burn Schedule "A" material.

6.2 Every person shall comply with all of the following conditions for a Recreational or Special Fire:

6.2.1 A person shall obtain a Recreational or Special Fire Permit from the Chief Fire Official or designate and shall comply with the conditions of such Permit;

6.2.2 No person shall burn material in a Recreational or Special Fire other than those materials listed in Schedule "A" of this By-Law;

6.2.3 A Recreational or Special Fire pit shall be no larger than 30 inches by 30 inches in size by 24 inches in height;

6.2.4 No person shall set or maintain a Recreational or Special Fire greater than the size of the container or fire pit, and the Recreational or Special Fire shall be totally confined within the container or pit at all times;

6.2.5 Every person who sets or maintains a Recreational or Special Fire shall confine such Fire to a location that provides for a minimum distance of 10 feet from adjacent properties;

6.2.6 Every person who sets or maintains a Recreational or Special Fire shall confine such Fire to an area that is a minimum of 15 feet in all directions (horizontal, vertical) from any Combustible structure, Combustible vegetation, accumulation of Combustible materials;

6.2.7 The outdoor fire appliance / fire bowl be placed on a non-combustible surface (e.g. patio stones, sand, cement) with the surface extending 1 foot (12 inches) beyond the perimeter of the fire pit;

6.2.8 Every person who sets or maintains a Recreational or Special Fire shall have an effective extinguishing agent of sufficient size and with the capability of extinguishing the fire shall on the site of the Fire and it shall be immediately available for use;

6.2.9 Every person who sets or maintains a Recreational or Special Fire shall attend, control and supervise the Fire at all times and shall completely extinguish the Fire before the fire site is vacated;

6.2.10 Every person shall pay the prescribed fee as set out in the By-Law to Establish and Require Payment of Fees and Charges for a Recreational or Special Fire Permit. The fee collected as set out in the Fees and Charges By-Law is non-refundable regardless of whether or not the privileges granted under the permit have been exercised. No adjustment or refund of fee shall be provided due to suspension or revocation of any Recreational or Special Fire Permit.

7. PROHIBITIONS

7.1 Notwithstanding any provisions herein, no person shall set or maintain an Open-Air Fire, Recreational Fire or Special Fire:

7.1.1 In contravention of the *Ontario Fire Code*, the *Forest Fire Prevention Act*, the *Environmental Protection Act* or any other statutory requirements of the Province of Ontario;

- 7.1.2 On any highway or other public property of the Town without written permission of the Town;
- 7.1.3 In any park owned or operated by the Town without written permission of the Town;
- 7.1.4 In the front or side yard of any commercial or industrial zoned property within the Town;
- 7.1.5 When dangerous conditions exist that could reasonably cause the Fire to spread beyond a burn site, or could decrease the visibility on a highway;
- 7.1.6 For commercial purposes or gain.

8. BURNING OF RUBBISH PROHIBITED

- 8.1 No one shall install, use, and maintain an unlicensed Incineration Device for the burning of garbage or other refuse in any class or classes of building.

9. FIRE BAN

- 9.1 Despite the existence of a valid Open Air Burning Permit or Recreational Fire Permit, the Chief Fire Official, or designate, may issue a Ban on any or all Open-Air Fires and Recreational Fires, and may suspend, without recourse, any or all Permits and cause to be extinguished any or all Open-Air Fires and Recreational Fires, until such conditions as the Chief Fire Official, or designate, may indicate are met.
- 9.2 No person shall set or maintain an Open-Air Fire, Recreational Fire or Special Fire during a Ban despite a person having obtained a valid permit.

10. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 10.1 The Permit Holder or any Person, who sets or maintains an Open-Air Fire, Recreational Fire or Special Fire shall be held responsible and shall be liable with respect to the provisions, conditions, and penalties contained in this By-Law.
- 10.2 The Permit Holder shall indemnify and save harmless the Town of Deep River from any and all claims, demands, causes of action, losses, costs or damages that the Town of Deep River may suffer, incur or be liable for resulting from the Open-air fires as set out in the By-Law, whether with or without negligence on the part of the Permit Holder, the Permit Holder's employees, directors, contractors and agents.
- 10.3 A Municipal Law Enforcement Officer, the Chief Fire Official, or designate, shall have the right to enter at all reasonable times upon any property in order to ascertain whether this By-Law is being obeyed, and carry into effect the By-Law.
- 10.4 At the discretion of the Chief Fire Official, a site inspection of the proposed burn location, whether for an Open-air fire, a recreational fire or a special fire may be required.
- 10.5 Permit fees are outlined in the By-Law to Establish and Require Payment of Fees and Charges and form part of this By-Law;

- 10.5.1 A permit may be issued for up to ten (10) consecutive days for an Open-Air Burning Permit and may be extended by written permission from Fire Chief or Designate.
- 10.5.2 A Recreational Fire Permit is only valid for the calendar year in which it was issued.
- 10.5.3 A Special Fire Permit is only valid for the dates recorded on the permit.
- 10.6 The fees collected for each Open-Air Burning Permit, Recreational Fire Permit or Special Fire Permit are non-refundable regardless of whether or not the privileges granted under the permits have been exercised. No adjustment or refund of fee shall be provided due to suspension or revocation of any Permit.
- 10.7 The Open-Air Burning Permit shall specify as precisely as possible the civic or street address of the location of the intended fire. Separate Open-Air Burning Permits will be required for properties at different addresses.
- 10.8 Any Permit Holder who is in violation of this By-Law shall have their Permits summarily revoked and all fires shall be immediately extinguished or shall be caused to be extinguished.
- 10.9 Open-Air Burning Permits, Recreational Fire Permits and Special Fire Permits are non-transferable.

11. COST FOR FIRE SUPPRESSION EQUIPMENT

- 11.1 If fire suppression or fire safety personnel and vehicles are dispatched to respond to a Fire, the person in control of the Open-Air Fire, or Recreational Fire, or Special Fire and / or the Permit Holder and / or the property owner may be charged, at the discretion of the Town, for the cost of such response as established in the By-Law to Establish and Require Payment of Fees and Charges. However, nothing in By-Laws shall be construed as limiting the rights of the Town to seek restitution or other direct or consequential damages or costs incurred beyond those listed.
- 11.2 The quantity and type of fire vehicles and personnel dispatched to respond for the purposes of extinguishing, controlling, or investigating any Open-Air Fire or Recreational Fire are at the discretion of the Chief Fire Official or designate.
- 11.3 A copy of an invoice for any charges related to fire services with a certificate by the Treasurer stating that:
 - a) All fees for fire services are in accordance with the By-Law to Establish and Require Payment of Fees and Charges
 - b) the invoice has been sent to the person(s) liable to pay the same;
 - c) no payment or insufficient payment has been received for the invoice; and
 - d) payment of the invoice is overdue;

shall be sufficient authority to enter the amount of the unpaid balance of the invoice on the Collector's Roll. The outstanding amount of such an invoice shall then be collectable by the Treasurer in a like manner as municipal taxes. Should the offending person not be a registered owner of property, said invoice may be forwarded to the Town Solicitor for legal action without further

notice.

12. OFFENCE

12.1 Permit – False Information

No person shall knowingly provide false or misleading information for the purposes of obtaining an Open-Air Burning, Special or Recreational Fire Permit.

12.2 Permit-Authority to Revoke

Notwithstanding Section 2 and 3 of this By-Law, the Municipal Law Enforcement Officer may revoke any or all permits. The Chief Fire Official may refuse to issue permits where, in the opinion of the Chief Fire Official the ability to control the fire is hampered by the existence in or near the proposed burn site of a dangerous condition.

12.3 Permission - Withdrawn Permit

The Municipal Law Enforcement Officer, Chief Fire Official, or designate may withdraw a permit and / or stop an open air burning / recreational / special fire if, in their respective opinion, the fire is causing a negative impact on the occupants of adjacent land, smoke produced by the fire is causing visibility concerns on roads in the area of the burn, the weather has deteriorated and has become unfavorable for an open air burn, conditions attached to the granting of permission are not being adhered to or if this By-Law is being contravened.

12.4 Order to Extinguish Approved or Unapproved Fires

The Municipal Law Enforcement Officer, Chief Fire Official, or designate may order the permit holder, land owner or occupant to immediately extinguish a Fire when a change in conditions occurs (i.e. Provincial fire ban, high wind velocity, etcetera).

12.5 Order- Permit Holder / Owner / Occupant - Extinguish Approved or Unapproved Fire

The Permit Holder, owner or occupant of land (on which an approved or unapproved open-air burn is located), shall immediately extinguish the fire upon being ordered to do so by the Municipal Law Enforcement Officer, Chief Fire Official, or designate.

12.6 Failure to Extinguish Approved or Unapproved Fires-Liable for Costs

Should any Permit Holder, land owner or occupant fail to extinguish an approved or unapproved fire when ordered to do so, the Municipal Law Enforcement Officer, Chief Fire Official, or designate may take action to have the fire extinguished and the person who owns or occupies the land on which the open air burning is located shall be responsible for any and all costs incurred by the Town of Deep River Fire Department in extinguishing the fire.

13. ENFORCEMENT AND ENACTMENT

13.1 Regulations - Offence

No person shall fail to comply with the provisions set out in this By-Law.

13.2 Enforcement

This By-Law shall be administered and enforced by the Town.

SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW 26-2025

Authorized Materials That May be Burned Under This By-Law

All materials other than those listed below are specifically prohibited from being burned:

- Wood and wood by-products that have not been chemically treated or painted or stained
- White or brown: paper and cardboard for the purposes of starting an authorized fire
- Natural or petroleum gases or liquids used as appliance fuels
- Charcoal materials intended for B-B-Q use
- Other clean burning Combustible materials that may be specifically Approved by the Chief Fire Official or their designate.

13.3 Contravention- Penalties

Every person who contravenes any provision of this By-Law is guilty of an offence and on conviction is liable to a fine as provided for in the *Provincial Offences Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c P. 33 as amended.

13.4 Continuation - Repetition - Prohibition by Order

The Court in which the conviction has been entered, and any Court of competent jurisdiction thereafter, may make an Order prohibiting the continuation or repetition of the offence by the person convicted and such Order shall be in addition to any other penalty imposed on the person convicted.

13.5 Default-Collection of Costs

A person shall be liable to the Town for all expenses reasonably incurred for the purpose of controlling and extinguishing of any fire so set, maintained, or left to burn. Such expenses may be recovered by court action or in a like manner, or as municipal taxes or Council may provide that the expense incurred, with interest, shall be payable in annual installments not exceeding ten years.

13.6 Separation

If any Court of competent jurisdiction finds that any of the provisions of this By-Law is ultra vires of the jurisdiction of Council to pass or is invalid for any reason, such provision shall be deemed to be severable and shall not invalidate any of the other provisions of this By-Law.

14. SCHEDULES – ATTACHED

- 14.1 The following schedule attached hereto, hereby forms part of this By-Law:
Schedule 'A' - Authorized Materials That May be Burned Under This By-Law

15. EFFECTIVE DATE

- 15.1 This By-Law shall come into force and effect this 21st day of May, 2025.
15.2 By-Law Numbers 25-2020 and 32-2020 are hereby repealed.

READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED THIS 21ST DAY OF MAY, 2025.


SUZANNE D'EON, MAYOR


JACKIE MELLON, CLERK

By signing this By-Law on May 21, 2025, Mayor D'Eon will not exercise the power to veto this By-Law.