

# Open Air Burning By-law 2016

*‘A Modern Approach  
to Public Fire Safety’*



# Open Air Burning Legislation in the Province of Ontario

- The Fire Protection and Prevention Act provides authority to the Fire Chief of a Municipality to establish a by-law, with the approval of Council, that governs open air fires



# Open Air Burning By-Law 2016 – *A Modern Approach to Public Fire Safety*

## • History

- At amalgamation, the seven Fire Departments had a variety of unique open-air burning policies
- Sudbury Fire Department model was adopted
  - Primarily respond to complaints
  - Permissive
  - Reactive
  - A “right”



# Recent Changes to the User Fees By-law

- Request for Decision regarding P6M initiative Open Air Burning Permits
  - November 17, 2015 Presentation to Finance & Administration Committee
  - Minutes adopted by Council December 15, 2015
- Miscellaneous User Fees By-law including the Open Air Burning fee schedule approved by Council December 15, 2015



# Key Differences – Current By-law vs. Proposed By-law

## Current By-Law 2009-132

- Current measurement is 6m from any combustible
- Onus on owner for compliance
- No fee required
- Results in a reactive Fire Services (FS) complaint based response

## Proposed By-Law 2016-....

- New measurements are 3m, 4m, 5m, dependant upon device and verified by FS
- Onus on FS in collaboration with owner for compliance
- \$50 fee required initially, \$25 renewal annually
- Proactive service provided to ensure safety by FS



# What Do Other Communities Do?

**DO NOT ALLOW open air burning in any form:**

Toronto

Windsor

Oshawa

Ajax

Pickering

Waterloo



# What Do Other Communities Do?

**DO NOT ALLOW** open air burning in URBAN area,  
but do in their RURAL area with a permit and fee

Ottawa	\$13 per year
Kingston	No Fee
Chatham Kent	Fee for some, not others
Burlington	No Fee
Hamilton	\$10
Guelph	\$25



# What Do Other Communities Do?

## ALLOW open air burning with a permit and fee

Mississauga	\$23, \$92, \$161, chiminea free
Barrie	\$22
London	n/a
Vaughan	\$25/5 days
Richmond Hill	\$35
Markham	\$50, chiminea free
Cambridge	\$58/month





# What Do Northern Communities Do?

## ALLOW open air burning with a permit and fee

Thunder Bay	\$20
Sault Ste. Marie	\$25 / \$15
North Bay	\$25
Timmins	\$25/year
City of Greater Sudbury Proposed fee schedule:	\$50 first year/\$25 renewal



# Communities with no Permit/Fee

**ALLOW open air burning without a permit and fee**

Sarnia

Kitchener

Oakville

City of Greater Sudbury



# Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Use

- As part of the CGS Open Air Burning Program, the Burning Permit site review by Fire Services will provide the opportunity to review the installation/maintenance of required smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors while at the residence if requested by the applicant



# How Would the Permit Be Obtained?

- The **Burning Permit Process**
  - a four-tiered approach to the issuance of a Burning Permit will be used:
    1. Application – online or at Citizen Service Centres
    2. Payment – online or at Citizen Service Centres
    3. Site Inspection – by Fire Services
    4. Permit Issued – by Fire Services



# How Would the Permit Be Obtained?

- **Site Inspection**

1. The Site Inspection will be conducted within seven days when possible.
2. A successful assessment will result in a Burning Permit being issued on the spot.
3. An unsuccessful assessment will result in a Burning Permit not being issued.

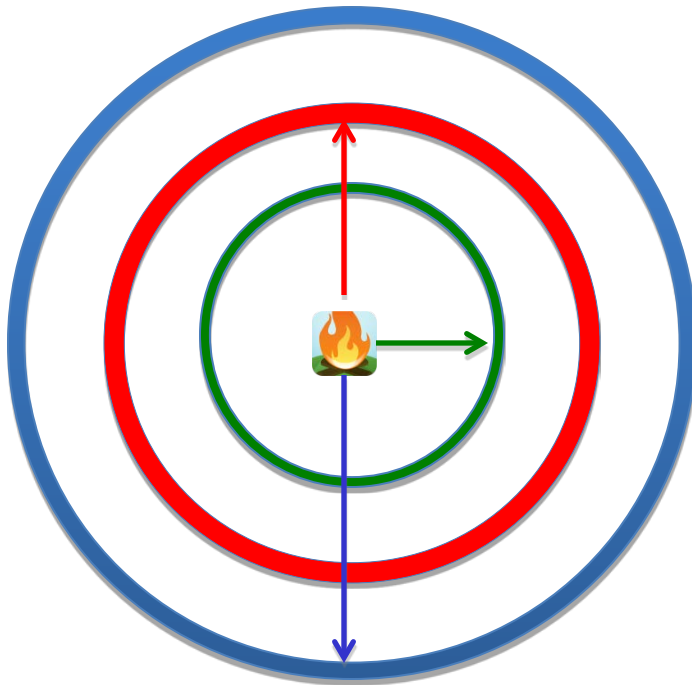


# How Would the Permit Be Obtained?

- **Site Inspection** will review the following items
  1. The general rules of the By-law:
    - ✓ What to burn
    - ✓ Supervising the fire
    - ✓ Equipment and resources to extinguish the fire
    - ✓ Weather conditions
    - ✓ Complaints
    - ✓ Ensuring clearances are met



# How Would the Permit Be Obtained?



- 3 metres to combustibles, only a small chiminea fire permitted
- 4 metres to combustibles, a barrel or smaller fire permitted
- 5 metres to combustibles, a campfire or smaller fire permitted

# Communicating the Change

- **Public Communication**

- Stress the proactive approach to safety of the citizens/neighbours and the responders
- Fire Services streamlines process, ensures Fire Service has permitted fire addresses in records management system for real time information
- Partner with Corporate Communications, the radio and television media future communication

