CARVER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guidelines

Section 2.02 – Open Burning / Cook Fires (Residential) **June 15, 2013**

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this guideline is to define rules and regulations for outside brush burning, cook fires, outdoor fire places, fire pits and chimineas for the residents of Carver

1.1 SCOPE

All residential open burning of brush from the period of January 15 each year through May 1st, and any subsequent years thereafter in which the State allows open burning of brush, and all outside fires for cooking or use of chimeneas .

1.2 BRUSH BURNING PROCEDURE

01. The residential open burning season as regulated by the state Department of Environmental Protection starts on January 15, of each year and continues to May 1st.

02. By state regulations only brush, cane, driftwood, and forestry debris from land proximate to its generation may be burned.

03. The regulation specifically prohibits the burning of grass, hay, leaves, stumps, and tires.

04. The regulation further requires that;

A. Burning must be conducted between 10:00am and 4:00pm during periods of good atmospheric ventilation. **Fires must be out at 4:00pm**

B. That the person setting the fire have sufficient resources present (such as a garden hose) to control the fire, and the fire shall not be left until it is completely extinguished.

C. That the burning be done without causing a nuisance.

D. That a written permit must be obtained from the Fire Department.

05. The Carver Fire Department will commence issuing written permits on January 1, of each year for use starting January 15th. Fire permits will be issued only by the Dispatcher at Central Fire Station between the hours of 8:30am to 4:30pm, 7 days a week.

06. After the written permission is issued, daily permission to burn must be obtained by calling the Fire Station at 866-3440 between 8:30am and 2:00pm. No permission will be granted after 2:00pm on any given day.

07. Permission to burn may be withheld during periods of extreme fire danger.

08. The Carver Fire Department urges all residents to get their burning done early in the season, for as the dry winds of March and April push the forest fire hazard up, burning will be curtailed.

08. Violation of Policy

A. 1st offense
- Verbal warning
- Notify Chief Officer & document in Daily Log

B. 2nd Offense
- Written warning to the party
- Document the written warning in Daily Log
- Revoke permit for remainder of season

C. 3rd Offense
- Court action including a payment of a fine and cost of suppression in accordance with MGL Chapter 48, section 13.

1.3 COOK FIRES

It is our duty to explain and educate the public that it is acceptable to have "reasonable" cook fires. They are not required to notify us prior to the event, however, by encouraging them to do so will help us be more aware of the location of these open air fires, and it may also prevent an unnecessary response if we receive notification of a fire from a neighbor or the fire towers.

01. We ask that resident's call the business line and let us know that they will be having a cook fire**.**

02. Permission may be withheld during periods of extreme fire danger.

03. Person setting fire must be at least 18 years old.

04. Cook fire shall be of a reasonable size and in a safe & enclosed area

05. Violation of Policy

A. 1st offense
- Verbal warning
- Notify Chief Officer & document in Daily Log

B. 2nd Offense
- Written warning to the party
- Document the written warning in Daily Log
- Revoke permit for remainder of season

C. 3rd Offense
- Court action including a payment of a fine and cost of suppression in accordance with MGL Chapter 48, section 13.

1.4 CHIMINEAS

Permission to use Chimineas will be granted provided they are in a safe location, not causing a nuisance and are fueled by clean firewood, not trash or brush. MGL Chapter 148, Section 5 allows the head of the fire department to order conditions be remedied that are likely to cause fire. This could be applicable when these devices are located on decks, porches, or close to buildings.

01. We ask that resident's call the business line and let us know that they will be having an outside fire in a chiminea. That will eliminate the potential of an unnecessary response by fire department.

02. Permission to utilize these devices may be withheld during periods of extreme fire danger.

1.5 ILLEGAL BURNING

Bon Fires, Burning without a permit, or burning materials not allowed or burning during times or days not under the Open Burning regulation will be considered as an illegal burning violation.

A. 1st offense
- Verbal warning, fire must be extinguished
- Notify Chief Fire Officer & document in Daily Log

B. 2nd Offense
- Written warning to the party
- Document the written warning in Daily Log.

C. 3rd Offense
- Court action including a payment of a fine and cost of suppression in accordance with MGL Chapter 48, Section 13.