

Open Burn Causes Three-Station Response

Last Saturday, crews from all three Wilmot stations responded to a corn field fire in the township. Several acres were accidentally set ablaze after a resident who did not have a valid permit started a small fire to burn items not permitted. High winds and dry conditions contributed to a fire that spread quickly, consuming several acres of corn stocks. Luckily, the wind directed flames away from nearby structures and crews were able to contain the fire. Charges are pending and cost recovery is being determined.

That same day, crews responded to other calls and found people burning without permits. The fire department reminds all Wilmot township residents that they are required to have a **valid permit** for outdoor burning, including:

- A Contained Site permit for wood-burning backyard fires, including fire pits and store bought chimineas
- An Open Burn permit for larger fires on rural/agricultural properties

These permits outline required practices and safety measures, such as:

- No burning on windy days (no more than 15 km/hr)
- No material shall be burned that can be recycled (e.g. cardboard)
- No burning of rubber, plastics, or any other material that could produce noxious fumes, including pressure-treated/painted wood or wood containing glue
- Fire must always be supervised
- A means of extinguishing the fire must be **readily available** (e.g. fire extinguisher, garden hose, machinery, tools, etc.)
- Fire must not create a nuisance for neighbours
- For Contained Sites, burn only clean, dry firewood; no vegetation or yard debris (e.g. leaves) may be burned
- Burn location for a Contained Site must be a minimum distance of 25 feet from any building, structure, property line, tree, hedge, fence, deck or other combustible item
- Burn location for an Open Burn must be a minimum distance of 100 feet from any structure

Under the current pandemic & Emergency Declaration nuisance calls such as the ones on Saturday must be avoided.

Please refer to www.wilmot.ca for current restrictions and burn by-law information.



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