

Township of
Langley



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NEWS RELEASE

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PERMITS REQUIRED FOR OUTDOOR BURNING SEASON

Burning season is scheduled to start this year on April 1, giving Township of Langley residents on rural properties a chance to clean up their yards and get rid of debris that has accumulated over the winter.

However, burning is limited to certain areas and a valid permit must be obtained before any fires can be started.

The Township of Langley Fire Department will be issuing burning permits for open air burning from April 1 to April 30, weather permitting. Open air burning permits are only available to properties that are .2 hectares (half an acre) or larger and are surrounded by properties that are equal or greater in size.

Burning is not allowed and permits are not issued for the urban areas of Aldergrove, Brookwood, Fort Langley, Murrayville, Walnut Grove, and Willoughby.

Permits can be obtained at Fire Hall 6 in Murrayville, at the Township Civic Facility and Operations Centre, and community recreation centres. Visit tol.ca for more information.

All other fires, including camp fires and bon fires, are banned all year round - even if they are monitored by people gathered around them. As well, Township of Langley Burning Regulations do not allow for any type of outdoor cooking over a wood fire.

“People may think they can have a fire in their backyard if they own or live on rural land, but that is not the case,” said Township of Langley Assistant Chief of Prevention Pat Walker. “Backyard bonfires are problematic because they create smoke that inundates the air with particulates, making breathing uncomfortable for others and causing damage to the environment.”

“As well, fires pose a risk of running out of control,” he said. “While it may have been rainy and cold recently, it doesn’t take long for grass and trees to become dry and extremely flammable as soon as the sun comes out.”

Those caught burning illegally can face fines of \$200 or higher.

Residents who notice backyard fires are encouraged to report them to the Fire Department at 604.532.7500 during regular business hours, Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm. During the evenings and on weekends, fires should be reported to the Department’s non-emergency line at 604.543.6700 or 911.

“If you are in doubt of the origin of the fire, always call 911,” Walker said.

Outdoor Cooking Safety

With spring around the corner, barbecues will soon be coming out of storage as residents get ready to get their grill on.

“People love to cook in the great outdoors, but caution should always be taken when working around heat and flames to ensure the cook, guests, and homes are protected from fire and burns,” said Krista Barton, Township of Langley Public Fire and Life Safety Educator.

Here are some tips to keep outdoor cooking safe:

- Start by using charcoal, natural gas, or propane fires contained within appliances approved by the Canadian Standards Association.
- Always check the gas tank hose for leaks before using the barbecue or appliance for the first time in the season. A propane leak will release bubbles when a light soap and water solution is applied to the hose.
- Propane and charcoal barbecue grills should only be used outdoors. They should be placed well away from the home and deck railings, and kept out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep the grill clean by removing grease or fat build-up from the grills and trays below.
- Always be sure the gas grill lid is open before lighting it. If the flame goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least five minutes before re-lighting.
- Never leave the grill unattended and ensure children and pets stay at least one meter (three feet) away from the cooking area.

There are several ways to get charcoal ready for use:

- Metal charcoal chimney starters are devices that allow charcoal to start using newspaper as fuel.
- If using a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire and keep them out of reach of children and away from heat sources.
- Electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire, are also available. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use when using electric starters.
- When finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing of them in a metal container.

For more information, contact the Township of Langley Fire Department at 604.532.7500.