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Ludlow Fire Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ludlow Fire Department Announces Information on 2023 Open Burning Season

LUDLOW —Chief Ryan Pease and the Ludlow Fire Department would like to remind Ludlow residents that open burning season begins Jan. 15 and runs through May 1. A permit is required to open burn in compliance with Massachusetts law.

Residents can apply for a permit online only at <http://www.hcburnpermits.com/>. Burning permits may be obtained between 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on the same day that residents would like to burn. Open burn regulations also may be found at this site. Permits will be available weather permitting.

Residents that do not have access to the internet or those that have any questions may call 413-583-8332, press 3 for the Fire Department, and then press ext. 5 to speak with Fire Department staff.

Please note that permits are no longer available on a walk-in basis at the Ludlow Fire Department.

Violations of the permit requirements, open burning law and/or open burning regulations will be grounds for permit revocation. According to Massachusetts law, anyone found burning without a permit may be subject to criminal charges, the punishment for which is a fine of up to \$500, plus the cost of suppression or by imprisonment for up to one month, or both.

Open Burning:

Burning must be done:

- Between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., from Jan. 15 to May 1
- At least 75 feet from all buildings
- As close as possible to the source of material being burned

Residents are allowed to burn:

- Brush, cane, driftwood and forestry debris (but not from commercial or industrial land clearing)
- Agricultural materials including fruit tree and bush prunings, raspberry stalks, and infected bee hives for disease control
- Trees and brush from agricultural land clearing
- Fungus-infected elm wood, if no other acceptable means of disposal is available

Residents may **not** burn:

- Leaves
- Brush, trees, cane or driftwood from commercial or industrial land clearing
- Grass, hay, leaves, stumps or tires
- Construction materials or demolition debris
- Household trash

What times are best for open burning?

- You can help prevent wildland fires by burning early in the season. Wet and snowy winter conditions help hinder the rapid spread of fire on or under the ground.

- Changing weather conditions and increased fire danger in spring can lead to many days when open burning is not allowed.
- April is usually the worst month for brush fires. When snow recedes, but before new growth emerges, last year's dead grass, leaves and wood are dangerous tinder. Winds also tend to be strong and unpredictable in April.

For more information on open burning in Massachusetts, visit [Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov).

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