



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Tips to Help Prevent Wild Fires

The Municipality of the District of St. Mary's wishes to share some tips to keep all residents safe during this wildfire season.

In Nova Scotia, almost *all* wildfires are human-caused, so prevention is our first line of defence.

Things you need to know to help prevent wild fires:

- 1. Please check the Burn Safe Map for daily information and restrictions before any outdoor burning: <https://novascotia.ca/burnsafe/>**
- 2. Daily burn restrictions are in place from March 15th to October 15th to help prevent wildfires. Under these restrictions, burning is not permitted between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Each day at 2:00 p.m., the Burn Safe map is updated to show the daily restrictions. People can also call 1-855-564-2876 (BURN) for this information.**
- 3. The Province recently announced that the fine for violating the daily burn restrictions has been increased to \$25,000 for this wildfire season. The fine amounts are set in the Summary Offence Ticket Regulations. The \$25,000 fine also includes HST and a victim surcharge, bringing the total to \$28,872.50. Conservation officers, police and other law enforcement officers can issue the fine on the spot in the form of a summary offence ticket.**
- 4. Always have a way to extinguish your fire, whether that be a burn blanket, fire extinguisher, or hose and bucket.**

Additional Fire Safety Tips:

- Prepare an Emergency Kit: Assemble a kit with essential items such as water, non-perishable food, medications, important documents, clothing, and a first aid kit. Keep it easily accessible.**
- Protect Your Home from fire: Keep the area surrounding and touching your home clear of debris and unkept vegetation or other flammable materials.**
- Do NOT throw cigarette butts or anything with an ember or spark outdoors, eg a cigarette butt thrown from a moving vehicle creates a serious risk of causing a fire.**



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By following these prevention and safety tips, you can significantly reduce the risk of fires.




Additional information on Fire Safety:

- [Fire restrictions - Government of Nova Scotia, Canada - Burn Safe Map](#)
- [fire-proclamation_2024-05-15.pdf \(novascotia.ca\)](#) – Fire Proclamation
- <https://news.novascotia.ca/en/2024/05/16/large-increase-fine-illegal-burning-during-wildfire-season> - Fine/Charges Information
- [Nova Scotia Government | Facebook](#) – NS Gov Facebook Page

BurnSafe 101

The BurnSafe map is your guide to when it's safe to burn in Nova Scotia during wildfire season, March 15 to October 15.



-  **GREEN** = burning is allowed after 2 pm.
-  **YELLOW** = burning is allowed after 7 pm.
-  **RED** = no burning is allowed.

Burning is never allowed from 8 am to 2 pm during wildfire season because that is often when the risk of wildfires is greatest. The map is **RED** during those hours. After 2 pm, check for an update.

Burn restrictions are updated daily at 2 pm based on weather data.



Check online at NovaScotia.ca/BurnSafe or call 1-855-564-2876 to see if burning is allowed.



Burn restrictions apply to open fires, including at campgrounds. This includes campfires, bonfires, burn pits, brush burning, chimineas and similar appliances.



Always make sure a fire is completely extinguished.

Never leave a fire unattended.

Save brush for burning in the winter.

Know your municipal bylaws and follow them if they are stricter than the provincial fire restrictions.



You could be fined \$25,000 if you don't follow provincial fire restrictions.

