



# Harwich Fire Department



*Fire Suppression*

*Prevention*

*Emergency Services*

David J. LeBlanc, **Chief of Department**

Craig W. Thornton, **Deputy Fire Chief**

## Harwich Fire Department

### Recreational Open Burning – Fire Pits

Fire pits have become popular in recent years. At single family dwellings, there are no special permits required in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the use of outdoor fire pits, cooking or recreational fires. There are however several requirements based on Department of Environmental regulations and the Massachusetts State Fire Laws & Codes (MGL Chapter 148 & 527 CMR)

- 1) Kept to a reasonable size and manageable, no greater than 3' diameter
- 2) It is required to keep a fire extinguisher, garden hose, or water bucket close to extinguish fire if necessary
- 3) Located 25' away from structures and combustible materials
- 4) Contained in a non-flammable enclosure, and have a cleared area of 25'
- 5) The fire must be attended to constantly by someone who is 18 years of age or older.
- 6) Remember to burn only clean, dry firewood. This will minimize the amount of smoke leaving your property and affecting neighbors. You may not burn trash, refuse or similar materials. Fire pits and recreational fires ARE NOT INCINERATORS. The burning of trash, rubbish, painted or stained wood and construction debris is prohibited by D.E.P.
- 7) Do not cause a nuisance or health hazard to your neighbors. If the Harwich Fire Department receives complaints from neighbors that the smoke or smell is bothersome, we will investigate, and if deemed necessary, you may be instructed to extinguish the fire. (MGL Chapter 148)

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