

Fire Prevention

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Fire Inspection

Fire inspections are important for the safety of the public, people who live and work in buildings and for Fire Fighters who may have to enter the building in an emergency situation. It is imperative that all building occupants are able to get out in an emergency in a safe and timely manner.

The Town of Smiths Falls Fire Prevention Plan requires that all “Public” buildings are inspected on a regular system of inspections. The Smiths Falls Fire Department inspects all public buildings on a regular basis in order to provide a maximum of fire safety to the occupant.

During a fire inspection, the Smiths Falls Fire Department is checking to ensure the buildings and the process and/or occupants are meeting the requirements of the current edition of the Ontario Fire Code. This includes checking the condition and maintenance of fire protection equipment such as fire alarms, sprinkler systems, automatic suppression system, fire extinguishers, emergency lighting, power systems, exiting, fire department access and the presence of fire hazards.

To book a non-scheduled inspection contact the Smiths Falls Fire Department, Lieutenant - Fire Prevention at 613-283-5869 or [Email](#).

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Fire Investigations

All fires under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act are required to be investigated every fire. Fires are investigated for cause, origin and circumstance. By investigating the fire, we are able to determine if it could have been prevented and once determined, measures can be put into place to prevent re-occurrences.

Most fires are accidental and are therefore preventable, but some fires are intentionally set and then become a criminal offense. The police are then involved with the fire investigator on the fire scene and assist with seizing of evidence and possible criminal charges.

Smiths Falls Fire Department has a complement of fully certified fire investigation NFPA 1033 and the department is fully equipped to conduct fire investigation. In some occasion, we required the assistance of the fire investigator from Office of Fire Marshall Emergency Management and in some case the assistance of Smiths Falls Police.

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Fire Permits

Permits are required for the following:

- Fireworks Permit
- Outdoor Fire safety
- Fire and Carbon Monoxide Alarm System Permit

Fireworks Permit

A Firework Permit is required before to have any fireworks within the limit of the Town of Smiths Falls.

Outdoor fire safety

Fire safety is not only a concern inside the home but it is also important outdoors. Learn tips that can be taken to prevent open air fires.

Open Air Fire Permits (Burn Permits)

Burn Permits (or Open Air Fire Permits) are issued under the [Open Air Fire By-law No. 8792-2015](#), which regulates the conditions under which fires may be set in the open air.

Is my property eligible for an Open Air Fire Permit or Outdoor Fireplace and Campfire?

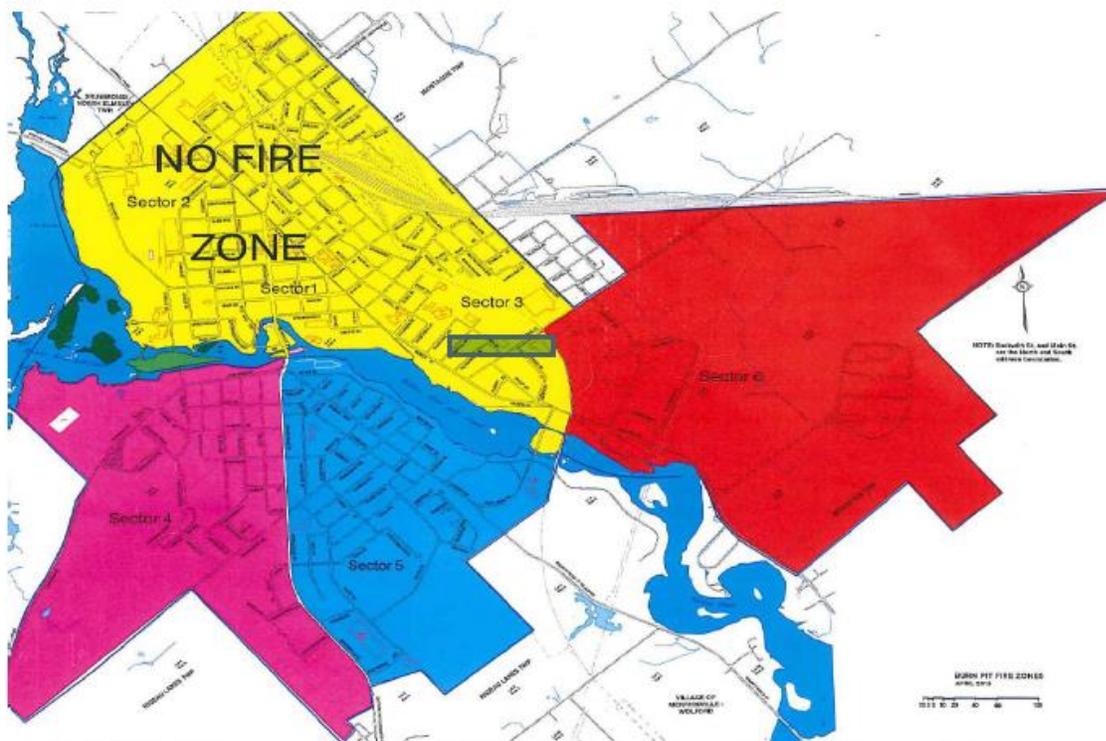
Please find your property (area/location) in the [By-Law 8792-2015](#) to confirm if you are able to obtain an Open Air Fire Permit or have an Outdoor Fireplace and Campfire. Open Air fire

and Outdoor fireplace are not allowed in the fire zone 1, or fire zone 2, or fire zone 3 in accordance to schedule C unless, approved by the fire chief.

Further details are as follows:

- A permit is required in order to light a fire on private property; this includes having a backyard fire or using a large fire pit.
- A permit is not necessary for outdoor natural gas, propane or ethanol fireplaces.
- If a device is designed and intended solely for the cooking of food in the open air, it does not require an open air fire permit, provided it does not burn wood, tree limbs, branches and non-compostable material limited to paper and sisal twine. Approved cooking appliances include gas, charcoal or propane BBQ/hibachis or gas or propane outdoor fireplace [must be ULC approved].

Fire Zone



Where can I obtain an Open Air Fire Permit?

Open Air Fire Permits can be obtained at the Fire Department.

Need to renew your permit?

You can renew your permit at the Fire Department. A permit for an out door fireplace must be renew on an annual basis.

For more details on days and locations, call 613-283-5869 ext. 0

Specific Event Permits can only be obtained at the Fire Prevention Division, given the requirement for a site inspection by Smiths Falls Fire Department staff prior to permit issuance.

A specific event permit allows open air fires (based on approval from Smiths Falls Fire Department, Fire Prevention division) that are normally not allowed in designated no burn areas of the City. Only a community not-for-profit organization or a religious institution may apply for an open-air fire permit to conduct campfires or open-air fires in an outdoor fireplace for cultural, religious or recreational specific events.

What is the cost of a permit?

- \$25 (tax included) for an Outdoor Fire Place and Open Air Annual Permit
- \$10 (tax included) for a Renewal of an Open Air Fire Permit Fees
- \$25 (tax included) for a Specific Event Permit

What forms of payment are accepted?

Cash, cheques, or debit cards are accepted at the town hall, located at 77 Beckwith Street North.

Where can I get a copy of the Open Air Fire By-law?

The [Open Air Fire By-law](#) is available on the City's website.

Do I have to notify the Fire Department before I start an open air fire?

No.

For campfires and outdoor fireplaces you are required to follow the conditions and regulations within your permit.

For how long will my new permit be valid?

Annual. An Open air and Outdoor Fireplace permit is valid for the calendar year. Specific Event Permits are valid for the date(s) specified on the permit.

Why are open air fires prohibited in some areas of the city?

It is unsafe to set and maintain open air fires in certain areas of the town. Population density and average lot size criteria were considered in the determination of the areas in which open air fires are permitted.

Is the use of an outdoor fireplace (either masonry or metal) considered open air burning?

Yes. Although these fireplaces are designed to be used outdoors rather than indoors and may limit the heat and sparks through their design, these reduced levels are still cause for concern. Smiths Falls Fire Department does not approve of open air burning in urban areas or near buildings. Therefore, outdoor fireplaces are not permitted in urban areas.

What is a fire ban and why can I not have an open air fire when a fire ban is in effect?

A fire ban, which is declared by the Fire Chief or his designate and is based largely on environmental conditions, is a period of time during which no one may set or maintain any open air fire anywhere within the town limits for reasons related to public safety and protection of property.

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Permit

The Town of Smiths Falls has had an Fire and Carbon Monoxide Alarm System Bylaw in place. The purpose of the Fire and Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarm System Bylaw is to promote the responsible use of alarm systems by both companies and individuals. The intent of the bylaw is to reduce the number of false alarms that the Fire Department attend. Smiths Falls Bylaw No. 8809-2015 requires all alarm system monitored by a monitoring service to have a valid alarm system permit. The Fire and CO alarm system permit application can be obtained online. The cost is \$10 and must be paid annually.

For each Fire and CO Alarm System is required to have the contact info of two (2) key holders.

By-law 8809-2015

Fire and CO Alarm Permit Application Form

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Fire Safety Plans

“Make Fire Safety – Part of your Business”

The Ontario Fire Code, Section 2.82.1.(1) requires the establishment and implementation of a Fire Safety Plan for every building :

- an **assembly occupancy**,
- a **care occupancy**,
- a **care and treatment occupancy**,
- a **detention occupancy**,
- a **residential occupancy** where the **occupant load** exceeds 10,
- a **retirement home**,
- a **business and personal services occupancy** where the **occupant load** exceeds 300,
- a **mercantile occupancy** where the **occupant load** exceeds 300,
- a **high hazard industrial occupancy** where the **occupant load** exceeds 25,
- a **medium hazard industrial occupancy** where the **occupant load** exceeds 100, or
- a **low hazard industrial occupancy** where the **occupant load** exceeds 300,
- containing 4 **storeys** or more, counting **storeys** below **grade**.

The implementation of a Fire Safety Plan helps to assure effective maintenance and utilization of Life Safety features in a building, to protect people from fire. The required Fire Safety Plan should be designed to suit the resources of each individual building or complex of buildings.

Fire Safety Plans are intended to assist the owner of a building with the basic essentials for the safety of all occupants. They are also designed to ensure an orderly evacuation at the time of an emergency and to provide a maximum degree of flexibility to achieve the necessary Fire Safety for the building. There is a review fee depending on the building systems.

Smiths Falls Fire Department, Lieutenant - Fire Prevention at 613-283-5869 or [Email](#).

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Fire Safety Presentations

The Fire Prevention Division of the Smiths Falls Fire Department is available upon request to give fire safety presentations. Requests typically come from businesses, professional groups, health care facilities, educational institutes and other civic organizations. Topics presented are tailored to the audience and any special requests from the organization. Depending on the group or organization, topics might include:

- What is Fire? (Fire Tetrahedron)
- Four Points of Fire (Black, Gases & Smoke, Heat, Time)

- Firefighter Role
- Leading Causes of Fire in our Community & Prevention
- Smoke Detectors, Alarm & Suppression Systems
- Fire Extinguishers
- Evacuation Plans
- Fire Safety in the Workplace
- Hotel/Motel Safety
- Health Care Facility Safety
- Vulnerable Occupencies

Presentations must be booked a minimum of 6 weeks in advance. To schedule a Fire Safety presentation, complete the [Online Request Form](#).

For any questions or concerns contact Fire Prevention Division of the Abbotsford Fire Rescue Service at 604-853-3566 or [Email](#)

Cancellation of Presentation

- Presentations are subject to cancellation if an emergency should occur. The Fire Prevention Division will reschedule.
- If you need to cancel a scheduled tour, the Smiths Falls Fire Department requires at least 48 hours cancellation notice.

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Fire Prevention Week

This annual October event showcases the essential services provided by the Town of Smiths Falls. Public activities include fire hall open house, a and various fire safety lectures and presentations. Information and fire safety tips are provided to school children in grades **K-5**.

Fire Hall Open House

Join Fire Department staff for the annual open house at the fire hall. The open house provides an opportunity to see all the lifesaving equipment and to learn ways of being safe in your home and work.

The History of Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the devastating Chicago fire on October 8, 1871 that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres.

The fire changed the way that fire fighters and public officials in Canada and the U.S. think about fire safety. The Fire Marshals Association of North America (today known as the

International Fire Marshals Association), decided that the anniversary of the Chicago fire should be observed in a way to educate the public about the importance of fire prevention. Fire Prevention Week was proclaimed in Canada in 1919 to commemorate the Chicago blaze, as well as the major fire that destroyed the Centre Block of the Parliament buildings in Ottawa on February 3, 1916.

[The National Fire Protection Association \(NFPA\)](#) continues today to make National Fire Prevention Week a priority and counts on the participation and efforts of tens of thousands of fire and safety professionals, emergency volunteers, and other individuals working to reduce the risk of fire and the toll it takes on our society.

With tremendous help from fire safety advocates throughout North America, Fire Prevention Week continues to be a success each year.

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Annual Fire Hall Open House

Join us for fun for the whole family!

- Meet the firefighters
- Tour the Fire Hall
- See the fire trucks
- Play the fire safety games

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