

Fire Safety Rules Near Forested Areas

Applies during 2026 Forest Fire Season in Newfoundland and Labrador

To help prevent wildfires, the province has rules about when and where you can light a fire near forested land. Please review the following before starting any fire. For more information on the NLFD fire season, please visit: [Forest Fire Season - Forestry, Agriculture and Lands](#)

General Rule

You **cannot** light a fire on forest land or within **300 metres** of forest land **unless you have a valid permit to burn**.

When You *Don't* Need a Permit

You may light a fire **without a permit** only in the situations below:

1. In Park Fire Pits

You can use a fire pit in a provincial, national, municipal, or private park **if**:

- The fire is in a **designated, prepared fire pit**.
 - A **park attendant** gives permission.
 - The park has the required **water pumps** for fire safety.
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2. Small Fires on Non-Combustible Ground

You may light a small fire on **sand, gravel, rock, or mineral soil** if:

- The fire is **at least 1 metre** from anything flammable.
 - There are **no overhanging trees within 3 metres** above the fire.
 - The fire is **small** (no more than **0.5 m high** and **0.5 m wide**).
 - You have **8 litres of water or a shovel** on hand.
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3. Outdoor Wood-Burning Units

You may use an outdoor wood-burning appliance if:

- It is made of **non-combustible materials**.
- It **fully contains** the fire and has a **spark screen**.
- It sits on a **non-combustible surface** of at least **1.5 m²**.

- It is **3.5 metres or more** from trees, brush, or flammable material.
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4. Incinerators

You may burn in an incinerator if:

- It fully contains the fire and has a **spark screen**.
 - It is on **private property**, at least **15 metres** from flammable material.
 - It is in **good working order**, with someone attending it when the **fire weather index is high or above**.
 - Ash is **fully extinguished** and disposed of on mineral soil **15 metres** from flammable material.
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Fire Weather Index Restrictions

The fire weather index measures wildfire danger. When conditions are dangerous:

Very High or Extreme

- **No open fires** allowed under the exceptions above (park pits, small fires, outdoor units).
- Only fully contained incinerators may be used (with conditions).

High, Very High, or Extreme

- **All burning permits are automatically invalid.**
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Help Protect Our Communities

Following these rules helps prevent wildfires and keeps residents, visitors, and first responders safe. Always check the [daily fire weather index](#) and follow local advisories.