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Town of Sutton Fire Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Town of Sutton Offers Online Purchase Option for Burning Permits

SUTTON (January 15, 2021) – Chief Matthew Belsito and the Sutton Fire Department announced that the state Open Burning Season will run from January 15 through May 1 and the Town will be utilizing a new online permitting system this year.

"Anyone in town utilizing the state Open Burning Season will be required to obtain a permit online first," Belsito noted. "Our new online permitting system allows residents to obtain their burn permit in a convenient and safe manner, especially during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic."

Burning permits from previous seasons do not carry over from year to year. All residents need to reapply for a seasonal permit online by visiting the town's website.

Residents applying for a permit online will link to City Hall Systems through the town's website (www.suttonma.org) and complete the application. If they do not already have an account, one can be created on the secure portal to pay taxes, sewer bills and obtain transfer station stickers.

Residents must also obtain permission from the Sutton Fire Department on the day they wish to burn. Permission and activation may also be completed online or calling 508-865- 8737 (option 4) to listen to the prerecorded message and leave your address. The requirement to check in each day before burning is based on changing atmospheric and weather conditions such as wind or air dryness.

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 imprisonment for up to one month, or both.

Open burning must be done:

- Between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. from January 15 to May 1, 2021
- At least 75 feet from all buildings

Residents are allowed to burn brush, cane, driftwood and forestry debris (but not from commercial or industrial land clearing)

Residents may NOT burn grass, leaves, whole trees, stumps, trash, tires, building materials or garbage.

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 the 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.

HOW TO SAFELY IGNITE A FIRE:

An adult should always be present during open burning and children and pets should be kept at a safe distance.

Use paper and kindling to start a fire and add progressively larger pieces of wood.

Never use gasoline, kerosene or any other flammable liquid to start a fire. The risk of personal injury in these cases is very high.

Keep a hose or water supply nearby, as well as shovels or rakes to control the fire.

Do not leave hot coals smoldering or unattended.

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