

# BURN GUIDELINES

## *Preserving Our Air for Future Generations Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe*

Working Together Today to Build a Better Tomorrow

*Ska'tne ionkwaio'te ón:wa wenhniserá:te ne sén:ha aioianerénhake ne enióhrhen'ne*

### **Overview**

Air pollution is primarily caused by human activities that release chemicals, particulates, or biological materials that cause harm or discomfort to humans or other living organisms, or damage the environment. Air pollution causes deaths and respiratory disease. The atmosphere is a complex, dynamic natural gaseous system that is essential to support life on planet Earth. Ozone depletion is due to air pollution; this has long been recognized as a threat to human health as well as to the Earth's ecosystems.

What is a permitted burn? A permitted burn is any burn under the Tribal Burn Regulation, [www.srmt-nsn.gov/air-quality-program](http://www.srmt-nsn.gov/air-quality-program) that a person has written approval for conducting. Do not burn anything without an approved burn permit issued by the Environment Division. For burns allowed without a permit see page 3. The Environment Division offices are open Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily, except on legal holidays. Individual residences or agriculture permits are free. Business and commercial permits are \$50.00.

This brochure is designed to assist the burn permit holder with ensuring that they remain in compliance with their permit to minimize air pollution and reduce impacts to friends and neighbors when a burn must be conducted.

If you fail to comply with the terms of the issued permit you may face revocation of permit and possibly even penalties or fines.

## **Burn Permit Compliance**

### ***Follow these steps to ensure that you are in compliance with your burn***

1. Do **NOT** conduct your burn until A) your pile has been inspected, B) your permit has been approved, and C) you pick-up your permit at the Environment Division.
2. Read and understand your permit.
3. Understand and follow all permit conditions.
4. Have your permit available at all times during your burn.
5. If you have any questions about the permit or conditions, please contact the Environment Division (518) 358-5937.

Please be considerate of neighbors, friends, and other facilities nearby when conducting a burn. The issuance of a burn permit is not permission to cause a nuisance to anyone else. Please talk to your friends and neighbors to let them know of your plans to burn so they are aware of what is going on.

If you manage a burn which emits enough smoke into the air to cause people downwind to complain, you will be subject to the Tribe's burn regulation which "prohibits the discharge from any source whatsoever such quantities of air contaminates or other material which cause injury, detriment, nuisance or annoyance to any person, persons, or to the public". You may be cited if your smoke causes visibility or other problems at the ground level.

## **Burns NOT Requiring a Permit**

*You are **NOT** required to have a permit for the following types of fires:*

Cooking of food—fire pits or barbeque pits.

Providing warmth for human beings—bonfires.

Fires for recreation—campfires, fishing (except for tires).

Orchard heaters—used to protect fruit trees.

Fire for fire department and criminal enforcement training.

Emergency control fires.

Ceremonial fires or fires for sweats.

### ***Recycling***

People are strongly encouraged to bring their recyclables to the Tribe's recycling depot rather than burning them. The depot is located on State Route 37 across from Wild Bills. The depot has four containers; two containers are for the collection of mixed paper and two containers are for the collection of hard recyclables: glass bottles, plastic bottles, and tin/aluminum cans. The Tribe empties these containers on a weekly basis.

*People are not charged to use the depot.*

### **Burns that are NOT Allowed**

Food garbage—food waste from food preparation.

Solid waste—includes garbage, refuse, and sludge. Burning barrels are also prohibited.

Municipal solid waste—includes solid waste and also appliances, tires, batteries, and non-durable goods.

Household hazardous waste—substances that are harmful to human health, living organisms or the environment such as paints, aerosols, cans, etc.

Refuse—includes dead animals, offal (butchering wastes), and streetsweepings.

Rubbish—includes paper and paper products, rags, furniture, plastics, chemicals, auto parts, oils, tires, and petroleum products.

Broadcast fires—fields, lawns, hayfields, and crop fields.

Land clearing or demolition—rubbish generated for the erection of any structure; modification of any highways, pipelines, community parks, or communication lines; or removal of any structure. **Please contact the Environment Division for more information.**

*NOTE: You may not start a permitted or unpermitted fire using prohibited materials. Please refer to Tribal Burn Regulations and Solid Waste Code for complete definitions and restrictions at <https://www.srmt-nsn.gov/air-quality-program>.*

## **Smoke Management**

Smoke Management means conducting a burn only under pre-determined fuel moisture and weather conditions, burning at a constant rate, and using fire techniques that will minimize smoke production and prevents accumulation beyond acceptable limits.

Burning should be done with a minimum amount of smoke. The heated air plume from a flaming hot fire helps carry the pollutants high into the air, out of breathing range and scatters them over a wider area.

**Avoidance**—Don't burn when smoke will not disperse well or will be carried towards smoke sensitive areas.

**Dilution**—Reduce smoke concentration by staggering ignitions and/or burning when there is good lift and dispersion. Burn some areas at different times of the year, in addition to those burn seasons traditionally chosen.

**Emission Reduction**—Reduce the amount of pollutants emitted by burning only the parts of the site needing it, by reducing the fuel loading, or by lowering fuel consumption (burn when some fuels are too wet to ignite). Lower emissions by maximizing the flaming phase during your burn. *Use alternatives to burning, such as chipping and soil incorporations.*

**Schedule Restriction**—Honor periods of no burning, such as overnight, weekends, and especially holidays.

## **Key Points for Effective Burning**

1. Free of prohibited materials—no tar paper, demolition debris, petroleum wastes, tires, metal salvage, plastics, treated wood, trash, house-hold garbage, etc..

2. Arranged so as to allow air to circulate freely—pile loosely. Let that oxygen in there! Fuel pieces should be far enough apart for air to move freely between them, but not so far from each other that they can't sustain flaming.

3. Free of dirt or excess surface moisture—dirt does not burn. It hinders drying, and it keeps air and oxygen away from the fuel. Furthermore surface moisture will have to be boiled off before the fuel can heat up enough to burn without excess smoke.

4. Dried for at least the minimum drying periods—If your fuel is too green, you are wasting your time and extra ignition fuel to get it to burn. You are wasting fuel energy to boil off water in the fuel and you will generate more smoke

## **Weather**

Weather plays an important role in smoke production. Check the local forecast before conducting a burn to see if the conditions are favorable in your area. Use a test fire to confirm smoke behavior before proceeding!

### **Favorable conditions for reduced smoke production are:**

Low pressure atmosphere

Tall, puffy, cumulus clouds

Mild winds with good visibility

### **Unfavorable conditions for smoke production are:**

Stagnant weather conditions

High pressure area; atmosphere is stable

Clear skies, or layered, flat clouds

Weak or no winds, hazy conditions

Temperature inversion, shallow mixing layer

## **Burn Bans**

The Environment Division determines if outdoor burning can be done safely and without undue fire risk to neighbors or the community. When deciding if it is safe to burn on any given day, the Environment Division considers factors such as: vegetation moisture levels, temperatures, relative humidity, and winds.

The Environment Division, in cooperation with appropriate fire control agencies, monitor certain fuel conditions and weather factors to determine if a general community wide or regional prohibition is required on burning. Announcement for burn ban and burn ban lifting will be provided in the local media. Please keep alert to any announcements.

***Because of the risk of wildfires no burn permit applications will be approved for burning between Enniskó:wa/March 15– Onerahtokó:wa/May 15***

### **Fire Safety Considerations when Burning**

Do not leave burning fires unattended.

Plan the burn well so that the fire is out before dark.

Do not conduct a burn if it is questionable.

Ensure there is uninterrupted access around the burn perimeter for firefighting equipment.

Monitor weather conditions—verify these conditions from a reliable source.

Have appropriate fire suppression equipment readily available such as shovels and water.

Plan manageable burns— Do not conduct large burns or build large piles that can become uncontrollable.

Use fire guards, such as bare soils (bladed or tilled), and streams or ponds to help control the fire.

Have identified escape routes for all personnel in case you lose control of your fire. A large grass fire can make it so hot that people will need at least 200 feet of distance to getaway from the heat.

Have telephones or radios available to call for help if necessary.

Remove excess fuel from the edges of the burn site.

Do not conduct fires close to buildings, gasoline and propane storage areas.

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## **Important Emergency Phone Numbers**

**Franklin County Fire Control (non-emergency)**

(518) 483-1219

**SRMT Police**

(518) 358-9200

**MCA Dispatch (Ambulance)**

(613) 575-2000

**New York State Police (Malone)**

(518) 483-5000

**SRMT Environment Division**

(518) 358-5937

**For all emergencies except ambulance call: 9-1-1**

## **Burn Checklist**

***Use this checklist to ensure everything is in place before you burn.***

Tribal Burn Permit Received:

Burn Dates Permitted:

Fuel Types:

Notify Neighbors: Yes or No

Estimated Time Needed to Complete Burn (hours):

Identify Smoke Sensitive Area(s):

Name:

Distance from Burn (feet):

Direction from Burn:

Name:

Distance from Burn (feet):

Direction from Burn:

Name:

Distance from Burn (feet):

Direction from Burn:

### ***Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Environment Division***

Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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Phone: (518) 358-5937

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