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**Issuance of Fire Permits**

Policy No.:	4121
Department:	Planning & Community Services
Authority:	Council
Current Approved Date:	August 2011

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**Policy Statement:**

Lamont County shall impose restrictions on the issuance of fire permits.

**Purpose:**

To control firefighting costs.

**Application of This Policy:**

1. **Permit Fires:** Fire permits will be issued by Fire Guardians at designated areas within the County under the control of the Emergency Services Coordinator, and in accordance with the following regulations:
  - a. Permit holder must be the land owner or a designate (a designate must have signed authorization on a "landowner fire permit permission form")
  - b. Time lines on permits
    - i. Permits are delayed by one day
    - ii. Permits may be dated one week in advance
    - iii. Fire permits will be issued for a two week period.
    - iv. The fire must be extinguished on or before the date of the permit's expiration.
    - v. If not, another permit must be obtained.
    - vi. No permits will be issued or burning will be permitted from Friday to Monday on long weekends, on October 31<sup>st</sup>, or from December 23<sup>rd</sup> to January 2<sup>nd</sup> inclusive.
  - c. A maximum of five land locations are allowed per fire permit.
  - d. The locations on one fire permit must be within the same fire district, except when authorized by the Emergency Services Coordinator.
  - e. Locations must be burned one at a time; however up to three brush piles may be burned simultaneously on one site within a half mile distance. Additional piles and/or windrows will be authorized at the discretion of the Emergency Services Coordinator.

- i. A brush pile is no larger than 15m in diameter with a break of no less than 50m between brush piles and/or forested or scrub brush areas or untilled fields.
  - ii. At the discretion of the Emergency services Coordinator a single windrow of no larger than 100m x 15m and a break of no less than 50m between brush piles and/or forested or scrub brush areas or untilled fields.
- f. Permits for the burning of bales will be issued subject to the lighting of one bale or separate a maximum of six bales per land location per day.
- g. Sheds to be burned are to be moved out so that they have a 15 m. guard and are 30 m. from another building. Sheds must be flattened before burning. The burning of sheds, houses or barns is regulated as brush piles when obtaining burn permits.
- h. A 4ft. x 4ft. (approx 1.2m x 1.2m) area of yard debris is permitted to be burnt. This debris must not be in close proximity to a fuel source and at least 30 m. from a building that has a non-combustible 15 m. guard around it.
- i. Prior to lighting fires, the permit holder must phone the weather station and the Lamont County Fire Advisory line as directed by Bylaw 715.11– Fire Charge Bylaw.
- j. A minimum 15 meter fire guard is required, and must be worked with a cultivator, discs or plow until ground cover is black, unless there is adequate snow cover of 6” or more.
- k. The permit holder or responsible designate must reasonably monitor the fire. This may include:
  - i. Monitoring the fire every hour when there are neighbouring trees or buildings.
  - ii. Monitoring the fire every 2 hours when there is little or no snow cover, but ground is tilled black.
  - iii. Monitoring the fire every 8 hours when there is adequate snow cover of 6” or more.

**2. Non Permit Fires:**

- a. An outdoor campfire which has been lit for cooking or warming purposes
  - i. Continuous adult supervision and monitoring of these fires is mandatory
  - ii. Where possible a screen should be used
  - iii. Fire must be completely extinguished before leaving unattended
  - iv. Persons using a campfire are responsible for any fire related costs associated with campfires or the spread of fire
- b. A burning barrel used to burn refuse
  - i. Must be metal
  - ii. Must have adequate ventilation and drainage holes
    - 1. Holes must be kept clear of debris

- iii. Must be covered with a screen/spark arrestor
  - 1. Holes/openings in screen cannot exceed 13mm (.5in)
- iv. Persons using a burning barrel are responsible for any fire related costs associated with burning barrels or the spread of fire beyond the barrel
- c. Smudges
  - i. Shall be contained in either a steel container covered by a screen/spark arrestor (13mm openings)
  - ii. Or a shallow pit covered by a screen (13mm openings)
  - iii. A straw/hay bale set on fire does not constitute a smudge
  - iv. Persons lighting a smudge are responsible for any fire related costs associated with burning a smudge or the spread of fire.

### **3. Burning of Hazardous materials:**

- a. Burning of any hazardous or noxious material is forbidden
  - i. These may include but are not limited to;
    - 1. Plastics
    - 2. Chemical containers
    - 3. Surplus chemicals
    - 4. Twine
    - 5. Painted or stained materials
    - 6. Tires
- b. Persons burning hazardous materials are responsible for any fire related costs associated with the spread of fire or extinguishment as well as cleanup costs. These persons may be subject to other laws regarding pollution.

### **4. Smoke pollution:**

- a. Fires in proximity to highways where there is the possibility of smoke crossing the highway, signs must be erected at at least two points on the highway warning of smoke. Signs may be obtained from local highway contractor.

**(CARILLION CANADA INC. Contract No. 7232/06 CMAs 7, 8, 14, 15 & 16 expires July 31, 2013**

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Box 40 Vegreville AB T9C 1R1 **Phone: 1-800-390-2242).**

- b. Depending on the length of time a person is exposed, their health status, their genetic background and the concentration of pollutants, air pollution can have a negative effect on the heart and lungs. It can:
  - i. Make it harder to breathe
  - ii. Irritate the lungs and airways
  - iii. Worsen chronic diseases such as heart disease, chronic bronchitis, emphysema and asthma

c. Each individual reacts differently to air pollution. Children, the elderly and those with diabetes, heart or lung disease, are most sensitive to the adverse health effects of air pollution.

**d. Therefore:**

- i. Any complaints of smoke pollution will be acted upon.
- ii. People burning permitted or non permitted fires should advise their neighbours of potential smoke pollution.
- iii. Complaints will be investigated and if pollution is sufficient the offender will be asked to extinguish the fire.
- iv. Non compliance will result in fire department extinguishing the fire and offender responsible for all cost associated with extinguishment.

**Related Documents & Legislation:**

Alberta Forest and Prairie Protection Act

Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act

Bylaw 715.11– Fire Charge Bylaw

Policy 4135 – Annual Brush Pile Fire Ban

**Definitions:**

**Fire Guardian:**

Persons designated as fire guardians for the purpose of issuing fire permits for Lamont County, as resolved by Lamont County Council.

**Duties & Responsibilities:**

Fire guardians may restrict burning on other days as deemed necessary.

**Procedures Associated With This Policy:**

ADM-4121: Fire Permits

**Forms Associated With This Policy:**

Lamont County Fire Permit

Landowner Fire Permit Permission Form

**Amendment History:**

94-486, 95-55, 01-34, 01-264, 10-007, 11-270, 13-259

**Scheduled Review Date:**

September 2014



