

Fire Wardens Issue Permits for Safe, Legal Outdoor Burning

Only when weather and humidity within limits

Rene Lefebvre
Andover Fire Department

I stopped by a home recently to issue a burn permit so that the homeowner could legally burn some brush. As he was signing the permit, he noticed that the document was from the State of New Hampshire and not the Town of Andover. I explained that the authority to issue a permit to "kindle a flame on the ground" is granted to State Forest Fire Wardens and Deputy Wardens.

The state is the authority for any outside burning. Most wardens are local firemen that attend additional forest fire training every year and represent the state for issuing outside fire permits and managing safe outside burning habits.

Permits are issued only when the weather and humidity are within safe limits. The Forestry Service issues this information to the local wardens every day.

An out-of-control fire in the woods can quickly become very large and destroy anything in its path. It is the warden's job to pay special attention to outside conditions and to prevent forest fires.

To be issued a permit, please call the warden or a deputy warden. You can reach them at:

- Warden Stephen Barton
603 848-3346
 - Deputy Warden Jake Otis
603 491-0641
 - Deputy Warden Jeff Miller
603 454-5030
 - Deputy Warden Fred Lance
603 340-4846
 - Deputy Warden Rene Lefebvre
603 344-1201
- They can issue a campfire permit for

the season; you will be able to have a campfire at any time.

A brush fire permit is good for up to seven days. Brush can be burned on the permitted days whenever it is actively raining. If rain is not falling, then brush can only be burned between the hours of 5 PM and 9 AM the following morning.

Other materials such as clean, unpainted scrap wood may be burned. However, painted, varnished, or pressure-treated wood and plywood cannot be burned. Your warden is able to help you with burnable materials.

Some safety tips for burning brush are:

- Keep the fire to a size you can safely manage
- Feed that small fire from a large pile
- Have a charged hose at the location of the fire, should the wind pick up
- Never leave the fire unattended
- Never use gasoline to start your brush fire.

Burning material is not a playground, and extra caution is required when children are around. When you are finished, please extinguish the ashes. Smoldering ashes and a little wind can start unintended fires.

With a permit, you will be able to burn legally. However, you are responsible for damages and suppression costs, should the permitted fire get out of control.

Having said that, please be responsible. If the fire becomes an issue, call 911. The faster we are called, the smaller the damage is likely to be.

You may also purchase a permit online at NHFirePermit.com

Outside burning is a good way to clean up woodland debris in the spring and can be a nice family activity. Your wardens and deputy wardens will help you to be safe.

Last Day to Change Party Affiliation is May 31

Get ready for primary on September 13

Supervisors of the Checklist

Attention, all Andover voters: It's time to check your party affiliation. The last day to change your party affiliation before the September 13 party primary elections is Tuesday, May 31. Prior to May 31, changes can be made at any time at the Town Clerk's office during her regular office hours.

The Supervisors of the Checklist for the Town of Andover will hold a public session for new voter registration, for correction of the checklist, and for changes to political party affiliation on Tuesday, May 31, from 7 to 7:30 PM in the Town Hall Meeting Room.



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building at 33 Capitol Street, which now is the location for the Department of Justice?

"This building was built back in the 1950s for New Hampshire Savings Bank, and in the 1970s the State purchased the property, as the FDIC wanted to sell the property. Is \$35 million a feasible amount for demolishing the Storrs Street Garage, finding a new location, and moving the Department of Justice, then demolishing the building at 33 Capitol Street and building a new parking garage?"

"I understand a project usually goes through the House Public Works and Highways Committee, but we did not go through this process. In 2018, Quantum Construction Consultants, Inc., was hired to inspect the Storrs Street garage and provide a report. Repairs were estimated at \$1.9 million, and there was a Capital Budget request for the Storrs Street garage.

"We have spent much money on repairs. What is the projected lifespan of the Storrs Street garage? One month or one year, two months or two years? I deal in details and have requested details of the \$35 million to be spent.

"I know eventually a new garage will have to be built, but I believe the time is not here and is not now. We are in double-digit inflation. Many citizens

in New Hampshire are trying to figure out how to pay their gas bills for their vehicle to get back and forth to work; how to pay the food bill with the rising costs; how to pay for their electricity and heating bills. I hope inflation is going to lessen, but I don't believe it.

"If we are going to have a \$35 million surplus, then why don't we make plans to give some of it back to the citizens of New Hampshire and utilize the remainder of the surplus to possibly pay down some of New Hampshire's debts?"

"I represent the citizens of New Hampshire, and I am voting "No" on this amendment and ask you to vote "No." Let's help our citizens. Next year, the Legislature can work on viable areas and costs for a new parking garage."

Sixty-five of us House members voted "Nay," and 271 voted "Yea" on the amendment 2022-0356h to demolish the building at 33 Capitol Street and Storrs Street garage; to move the Department of Justice to another location, and to build a new Legislative parking lot. HB 1661 with Amendment passed by voice vote.

On Tuesday, March 29, I asked for the detailed breakdown of how the \$35 million was going to be spent. As of Wednesday, April 13, still no report, and I was advised the original report was being updated. I keep asking myself, does no one care how our money is being spent?"



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