

Forest Wardens Report

The following is the report of the Forest warden for the year ending December 31, 2009:

Event Report

Grass and Brush fires: 10
Permits for Outside Fires: 244

Please remember that open burning in Massachusetts is allowed only by permit, from January 15 through May 1 each year so long as weather conditions allow. Acceptable conditions are determined by Department of Environmental (DEP) and State Fire criteria. Just wet conditions may not be enough. To obtain a permit, please call 978-838-2444. The permits are free! Permit fires may not begin before 10:00 AM and must be completely extinguished by 4:00 PM.

No burning of building or demolition material is allowed. Brush only. This is limited to 4" maximum diameter and NO stumps. Burning must be attended at all times and located more than 75 feet from any structure.

Burning without a permit subjects you to all costs incurred by the fire department in extinguishing your fire, as well as the potential for DEP and Forest Warden citations and fines.

After you obtain your permit you may call in each day you wish to burn, and, if conditions permit, you will be authorized to *exercise* your permit for that day. Authorization is for that day only and subject to revocation if conditions change for the worse.

Open burning has disadvantages as it produces carbon dioxide and solid substances in the air. The DEP establishes regulations for open burning for public health and safety. It can cause great difficulty for people with respiratory problems. We thank you for your cooperation and helping us keep Berlin a fire safe town.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce E. Ricard, Forest Warden