

## Outdoor Fire Pits: The Dos and Don'ts

If you are thinking about capping off a beautiful summer day with a backyard bonfire in the evening, be mindful of the Town of Antigonish's [Outdoor Fire By-law](#). The purpose of the *Outdoor Fire By-law* is to ensure that all outdoor fires are held in a safe manner and do not cause a hazard or a nuisance to your neighbors

### Acceptable Fire Pits

When preparing a fire, ensure that it is safely contained within an acceptable fire pit. An acceptable fire pit is a receptacle that is constructed from bricks, concrete blocks, heavy gauge metal, stone, or other suitable non-combustible components, which includes a spark arrestor or metal mesh screen. A spark arrestor, in particular, can help prevent the spread of sparks or blowing debris, which may pose a fire hazard if not contained. Open fire pits are prohibited under the Town's By-law.

### Acceptable Fire Pits



### Unacceptable Open Fire Pits



### **Burning Materials**

Dry-seasoned wood is recommended as it produces the least amount of smoke when burning. Please be aware that the burning of petroleum products, chemicals, chemically-treated materials, rubber, plastic, garbage and general waste, organic waste, construction debris, furniture, or any other materials that can be a hazard or nuisance (e.g. cause excessive smoke) is prohibited under the Town's By-law.

### **Fire Safety**

Be mindful of fire safety and take responsible safety precautions while the fire is burning. Our By-law requires fire pits to be located 15 feet from any building, property lines, or flammable materials that may cause a fire to quickly spread if ignited. If you are operating your fire pit on a wooden deck, it is recommended that the pit be placed on a fire proof pad. Also, be sure that a means of extinguishing the fire is nearby, in case a spark or ember escapes the pit. Never leave a fire unattended, and ensure that it is properly extinguished when the evening's festivities are over.

### **Questions?**

If you're wondering whether your fire pit meets our by-law, or would like more information on holding an open fire in Town, please contact our [By-law Enforcement Officers](#).