



Figure 1: The Burning Permit Area refers, primarily, to the forested areas of Manitoba including areas within three miles of boundaries of Provincial Forests in Agro-Manitoba, municipalities east of Range 8E in southeastern Manitoba, municipalities north of Township 24 in the Interlake, the Municipality of Mountain (South) and unorganized areas of Manitoba. The Burning Permit Area excludes much of the Swan River Valley, other than lands within three miles of the boundaries of the Duck Mountain and Porcupine Provincial Forests. Details regarding Burning Permit Area boundaries may be obtained from Conservation and Water Stewardship District Offices.

Conservation and Water Stewardship – Wildfire Program Restrictions:

During the wildfire season (April 1st – November 15th), there may be times when the increased risk of wildfire, due to current wildfire activity, dry conditions, forecasted weather, and/or an increased risk of lightning caused wildfires, may require Conservation and Water Stewardship (CWS) to cancel burning permits for outdoor fires or implement travel and/or fire restrictions within the burn permit area under the authority of the *Wildfires Act*. The Burning Permit Area refers, primarily, to the forested areas of Manitoba including areas within three miles of boundaries of Provincial Forests in Agro-Manitoba. An outdoor fire is a fire that is started outdoors under a burning permit but does not include a fire that is burning safely within a designated fire pit or a pit that has been approved by an officer.

Cancellations and restrictions implemented in the Burning Permit Area do not apply to cities, towns, villages or national parks or their extended non urban areas (i.e Municipalities). A restriction, as implemented by Conservation and Water Stewardship, limits the use of fire and/or travel in particular areas, including provincial land, parks and Crown land, during specified times. What is restricted will depend on the current and forecasted fire danger and the level of current wildfire activity for the Province. These methods are used to protect life, property and community by reducing the risk of preventable human caused wildfires, especially in the wildland urban interface, particularly when the current and forecast fire danger conditions could result in fires burning out of control and spreading rapidly.

There are several levels of restrictions; from the limiting the use of motorized off road vehicles to certain hours of the day when the risk of wildfire is less likely to a complete closure of areas to travel, outdoor fires and campfires in approved pits. CWS Officials will determine the extents of any bans or restrictions based on the severity of the conditions and the availability of firefighting resources.

The public would be advised of any provincial restrictions through various media outlets, posted signs, and CWS offices. Information detailing Manitoba’s wildfire activity can be found at www.manitoba.ca/wildfire .

Wildfires Act allows Natural Resource Officers to issue fines up to \$10,000 for individuals and \$50,000 for corporations, if found to be guilty of an offence.

Even if a cancellation or restriction has not been issued, when it is very dry or windy it is advisable to refrain from starting outdoor fires until conditions are safer. Rain doesn’t necessarily mean the ban will be lifted. Any ban or restriction will remain in place until the fire danger level has improved, there are fewer fires burning, the risk of lightning fires has reduced, and fire fighting resources have been made available.

Local Government Burning Restrictions:

Local government have the ability to enact and implement their own bylaws to restrict burning in their municipality. Please visit the Office of the Fire Commissioner’s Municipal Support page to find emergency services bylaw sample to help your municipality enact the necessary bylaws to restrict burning and prevent wildfires. The information can be found at www.firecomm.gov.mb.ca/support_bylaws.html. Conservation and Water Stewardship will respect restrictions implemented by Municipalities by not issuing its burning permits to landowners in those areas but do not enforce municipal by-laws.

In order to track fire protection efforts during spring dry conditions, the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) asks all municipalities to please inform the OFC immediately at firecomm@gov.mb.ca if there are current burning restrictions in place. We also ask that changes to the status of the burning restrictions be reported to ensure the information provided on the Municipal Burning Restrictions webpage (www.gov.mb.ca/wildfire/burn_conditions.html) is current and accurate. Member of the public should be referred to the Municipal Burning Restrictions webpage AND encouraged to check with their municipal office for the most recent information.

