

Bonfires

Last Updated: 05/17/2017

PREAMBLE

Bonfires are a common way of bringing the residence community together.

POLICY

When planning a bonfire, you must submit a Request for Open Air Burning at least one week prior to your event. The form can be submitted online on Western's Fire Safety & Emergency Management webpage (http://www.uwo.ca/police/emerg/open_air_burn.html)

Sustainability Considerations

When planning a bonfire, you may want to consider using firewood alternatives that are more sustainable. A couple of options include:

- Northland Pine Mountain Brand fire logs
 - Sold at Home Depot, this product is made of recycled material and a tree is planted for each package sold.
- FSC Certified Wood
 - Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified wood is harvested in ethically and environmentally responsible ways. It can be purchased at many lumber yards, including Townsend Lumber in Tilsonburg, ON.

Sustainable firewood options may be more expensive than traditional fire logs, but are worth considering if you have room in your budget. Consider purchasing firewood alternatives in bulk and allocating them across different events, or work to collaborate with other Councils.

PROCEDURE

The following are important considerations and requirements for open air burning:

- The individual submitting the request, or their designate, is responsible for the overall safety of the Open Air Burn and is expected to be in attendance for its duration. This individual is also responsible for reading the City of London Open Air Burning By-law (link available on the webpage above) and adhering to its conditions.
- A fire extinguisher must be present at all Open Air Burns in case of emergency.

- If you do not have a spare fire extinguisher you may borrow one from Fire Safety at no cost.
- Water may be used to extinguish the fire at the end of the event. Please reserve the use of the fire extinguisher to emergencies only.
- All fires must be contained in a fire pan made of non-combustible materials.
- If you do not have an approved fire pan, you may borrow one from Fire Safety at no cost.
- Open Air Burns must be conducted in an approved location and on a non-combustible surface. If there has not been an Open Air Burn in the location you have chosen, a site visit must be conducted by Western Fire Safety in order to determine its suitability for Open Air Burning.
- All Open Air Burns must be conducted at least 10 meters from any building.
- Only commercially produced charcoal, briquettes, or clean, dry, seasoned wood may be burned.
- All Open Air Burns must be conducted between 4:00pm and midnight.

Individuals will need permission from their Residence Manager as they give final approval of all bonfires. Any questions regarding **Bonfires** can be forwarded to the Fire Safety & Emergency Management Office at firesafety@uwo.ca.