OPEN BURNING REQUIREMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. You must obtain a **PERMIT** for open burning from the Bellingham Fire Department.
   a. You must call the Fire Department at **508-966-1112 EACH DAY** before burning in order to activate your permit. Do not call the fire station before 9:30AM for permission to burn. We evaluate each day's weather conditions for burning at 9:30AM.
   b. Fires may be started between the hours of **10:00AM and 12:00PM** only.
   c. Fires must be **COMPLETELY extinguished by 4:00PM.**

2. Guidelines for conducting open burning:
   a. **STARTING THE FIRE**
      - Before placing materials to be burned in an area, remove all grass.
      - Before burning brush, dry by cutting in advance and covering.
      - Start the fire using either small amounts of kerosene, #2 fuel (NO GASOLINE), or a pressurized burner which uses diesel fuel.
   b. **WHILE BURNING**
      - Someone must attend the fire until completely extinguished.
      - Have available a water supply, such as a pressurized water can or hose, and shovels or rakes for controlling the fire.
   c. **EXTINGUISHING THE FIRE:**
      - Burn the fire down to the coals.
      - Spread the coals and cover or douse with snow, water, sand or soil.

3. **BURNING OF THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS IS ALLOWED WITH A PERMIT:**
   a. Brush, cane, driftwood and forestry debris from other than commercial or industrial land clearing operations between **JANUARY 15 TO APRIL 30** under the following conditions:
      - Burning must be at least 75 feet from all dwellings.
      - Burning must be carried out between 10:00AM and 4:00PM.
      - Burning must take place on land closest to the source of materials to be burned.
   b. Materials normally associated with the pursuit of agriculture, such as fruit stalks, blueberry patch for pruning purposes, infected beehives for disease control.
   c. Trees and brush resulting from agricultural land clearing.
   d. Fungus infected Elm wood if no other acceptable means of disposal is available.

4. **BURNING OF THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS IS PROHIBITED STATEWIDE:**
   a. Brush, trees, cane and driftwood from commercial and/or industrial land clearing operations.
   b. Grass, hay, leaves and stumps
   c. Tires