



GUIDELINES FOR BEACH FIRES and SAFE PRACTICES

Fires on the beaches in the Northport Village Corporation must comply with the NVC Fire Ordinance and Maine State Law, but any fires on our beaches during the summer season require an additional degree of care and courtesy to protect the community. Following these beach fire safe practices is important:

1. All beach fires greater than 3ft x 3ft (basically, all fires) require a permit, which can be obtained free:

The online burn permit system is made possible by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry's Maine Forest Service. Burn permits are available at www.maineburnpermit.com and are **valid for 24 hours**. Handwritten burn permits may also be obtained through local fire departments and town offices. Read the conditions on the burn permit and keep it with you while the fire is burning.
2. Because of the high risk to wooden structures in Bayside, beach fires are only permitted during **Class 1 (low) and Class 2 (moderate)** days when the wind is below 10mph. Fire danger classification is determined by the Maine Forest Service based on current weather and conditions. They are updated daily at 9 am and can be found at mainefireweather.org. Bayside is in Region 11. Even if the fire weather is moderate or good, beach fires should not be lit when winds are blowing inland because of the risk of embers blowing towards structures. Bayside wind patterns are different from those at surrounding fire weather stations, so good judgment is required.
3. All fires must be continuously monitored and cannot be left unattended. Tools/water to extinguish the fire must be within arm's reach at all times.
4. All beach fires should be completely extinguished by 10 pm. The Northport Fire Department is small and relies heavily on volunteers who do not want to be called out of bed because of a report of a fire on the beach at midnight.
5. All debris from any beach fire must be removed promptly the next morning.
6. CALL 911 immediately if the fire gets out of control.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: ALL BEACH FIRES REQUIRE WRITTEN APPROVAL OF THE LANDOWNER, WHETHER THE PROPERTY IS PRIVATELY OWNED OR NVC-OWNED – YOU MAY BE ASKED TO PRODUCE YOUR PERMIT AND THE WRITTEN APPROVAL. PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY.