



Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services

Services d'urgence, d'aviation et de lutte contre les feux de forêt

Campgrounds & Restricted Fire Zones!



A Restricted Fire Zone (RFZ) is a specific geographic area where the use of open fires, like campfires or debris burning, is restricted. It is a temporary measure put in place by the Minister of Natural Resources

and Forestry when the fire danger is extreme to prevent human caused fires.

Under the Outdoor Fires Regulation (O. Reg 207/96 s. 8.7), a campground is defined as offering camping facilities to the public on a temporary basis. These operators may allow their guests to continue enjoying campfires during an RFZ period provided certain conditions are met as per the Outdoor Fires Regulation made under the Forest Fires Prevention Act:

1. The fire is contained in,
 - a. an above ground fire grate or fireplace that is designed to burn wood safely and that cannot be moved to an unsafe location, or
 - b. a pit in the ground that has fireproof walls and is designed to burn wood safely.
2. The fire is at least three metres from any forest area, and the area within the three metre radius is completely free of flammable material.
3. The space immediately above the fire installation is at least three metres from any overhanging vegetation.
4. The owner or operator of the campground expressly permits the fire to be set during a time when the campground is in a restricted fire zone. O. Reg. 230/00, s. 4; O. Reg. 64/10, s. 3.
5. The campground allows camping only in cabins and designated campsites, and all are

accessible by motor vehicle as defined in the Highway Traffic Act;

6. The campground does not allow campfires between 10am and 7pm;
7. The campground clearly posts the hours campfires will be allowed;
8. The campground has printed information on safe campfires and provides it to all of its guests;
9. The campground has adequate equipment to control and extinguish a fire, that can be taken to any campsite or cabin within 10 minutes;
10. The campground has on site at all times, staff who are instructed in the location and use of the fire suppression equipment described above; and
11. The campground has reliable two-way telecommunications equipment to allow it to obtain assistance if a fire escapes control. (O.Reg. 230/00, s.4; O Reg. 64/10, s.4)

Campgrounds may allow the use of portable charcoal equipment during an RFZ (O. Reg. 207/96 s.8.2 (3) 3). The installation must be designed to use and will use commercially produced charcoal as fuel, and the owner or operator of the campground permits a charcoal installation to be used during a time with the campground is in a RFZ.



To report a wildfire in northern Ontario, call 310-FIRE (3473).
South of the French and Mattawa rivers call, 911

For more information, visit:
ontario.ca/forestfire.