Winter Brush Burning

The following steps will help you prepare to burn brush more safely. Winter Burning may take place from November 1 - March 1. Please check with your local Fire Department before burning; some municipalities require a burning permit year round.

1. Gather and pile brush in an open area away from over-hanging branches.

2. In the fall, cover the brush pile with a tarp. Keep the pile covered for at least two months before you burn.

3. When you are ready to burn, choose a calm day (wind 10 km/h and below) with snow on the ground. Remove the tarp.

4. Place crumpled pieces of newspaper into the brush around the base of the pile.

5. Light the paper all around the base of the pile. Do not use the fire to dispose of household garbage, or use old tires, oil or other accelerants.

6. Enjoy a safer, cleaner burn with very little smoke.
**Why burn brush in the winter?**

Traditionally, many Nova Scotia property owners think about cleaning up the yard in the spring, but unless we’ve had a number of large snowfalls over the winter, dead grass and other vegetation in your yard can dry out quickly becoming flammable as early as mid-March. In fact the highest number of wildfires occur in April and May, usually the result of grass or brush burning that got out of control.

You can greatly reduce the risk of a fire spreading by burning brush when there is a blanket of snow on the ground. It’s easy. This brochure shows you how.

As a bonus, the combination of the dry, tarp-covered wood and the cold winter air will mean the fire will burn faster and cleaner with less annoying smoke for you and your neighbours.

**Did you know?**

Wildfires are **four times** more likely to **occur** in the spring months, from **mid-March** to **early May**, than at any other time during the year.

**Hidden Cost of Wildfires**

- Endangers wildlife and habitat.
- Loss of homes and personal property.
- High personal costs; injury/loss of human life; criminal record if convicted.
- Air pollution.
- Diverts firefighters from house/structure fires.
- Increased costs to society: enforcement, investigation, court time, use of social services.

For more information, please contact your local NS Department of Natural Resources office or visit: [www.gov.ns.ca/natr/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/)