



## FES-6 Fire Advisory Systems Activities Policy

Department: Fire and Emergency Services

### Policy Objective

The County of St. Paul recognizes that within the municipal boundaries of the County, residents and visitors may want to ignite an open-air fire. The County also recognizes that it is necessary to establish guidelines for issuing fire restrictions and fire bans to regulate open-air fires. The County will establish a clear guide for levels of fire activity restrictions within its borders.

### Policy Statements

#### 1.0 Fire Advisory System

- 1.1 The Fire Guardian for the County will make a declaration that a restriction has been placed on open-air fires. The restriction levels are categorized by the Fire Advisory System defined in the County's Fire Bylaw.
- 1.2 The approved activities within each Level of the Fire Advisory System are defined in Section 3.
- 1.3 Guidelines for issuing Fire Restrictions/Fire Bans are defined in Schedule "B" in the County's Fire Bylaw.

#### 2.0 Definitions

- 2.1 The following terms shall be defined as follows:
  - (a) "Chief Administrative Officer" or any designee by the Chief Administrative Officer to act in accordance with the provisions of this Policy.
  - (b) "Council" means the Council for the County of St. Paul No. 19.
  - (c) "County" means the Municipality of the County of St. Paul No. 19, in the Province of Alberta.
  - (d) "Fire Ban" means a declaration by the Fire Guardian that a restriction has been placed on open-air fires and the restrictions will be categorized by the Fire Advisory System.
  - (e) "Fire Guardian" means the Chief Administrative Officer or such other persons as Council shall appoint from time to time.
  - (f) "Fire Permit" means a document in the form prescribed by the Forest and Prairie Protection Act or the County of St. Paul No. 19 permitting the lighting of open-air fires.
  - (g) "Open-Air Fire" means an outdoor fire within the geographic boundaries of the County where the flames of the fire are exposed to the air or atmosphere and includes a safe wood campfire, fire contained in a pit, grass fire, brush fire, a fire for burning coal, wood or other burnable substance, a fire which burns any burnable materials such as straw, stubble, leaves, brush, wood, shavings, saw dust, gas and oil and a fire which burns any

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combustible substance, but does not include a propane or natural gas powered appliances.

- (h) “Safe Wood Campfires” means an open-air fire within a metal, brick, or rock fire ring (see also “Acceptable Fire Container” in the County’s Fire Bylaw). They are required to:
- i. be on rock, gravel, sand, or another non-combustible surface that extends at least one metre around the fire;
  - ii. have a responsible person in attendance to always keep the fire under control and extinguish before leaving;
  - iii. have enough water on site to extinguish the fire.

## **3.0 Approved Activities Within Each Level of the Fire Advisory System**

### **3.1 Level 1 NO RESTRICTION:**

- Safe wood campfires are allowed on private land and in campgrounds.
- Any open-air fire other than a safe wood campfire requires a fire permit.

### **3.2 Level 2 FIRE ADVISORY:**

- Safe wood campfires are allowed on private land and in campgrounds.
- Issuance of fire permits for any other open-air fire may be restricted.
- Existing fire permits would be honored; however issuance of new fire permits may be suspended.

### **3.3 Level 3 FIRE RESTRICTION:**

- No open-air fires.
- Fire permits may be suspended or cancelled, and no new fire permits will be issued.
- Safe wood campfires are allowed on private land and in campgrounds.

### **3.4 Level 4 FIRE BAN:**

- No open-air fires are allowed on private land and in campgrounds or on any other lands within the County.
- All fire permits are suspended or cancelled, and no new fire permits will be Issued.
- Propane and/or natural gas-powered appliances are allowed.

Council Approval: May 10, 2022