

The Burning Truth

“Debris burning is one of the highest risk activities that occur in rural areas and is the cause of 30% of all wildfires in the Great Lakes Region.”- DNR



“One of the most critical concepts in dealing with the wild land/urban interface is the concept of defensible space. Defensible space is an area around a structure in which vegetative fuels have been modified and/or reduced to slow the spread of a wildfire.” DNR

“Chipping and mulching are the preferred method for dealing with natural debris. There is an abundance of information and products available to aid in this environmental friendly activity”. DNR

The woodland setting for homes in the Les Cheneaux area requires special attention to fire safety. Clearing debris to maintain a defensible space around homes is an ideal action. Island residents without road access have additional challenges since removing debris and transporting chippers may not be an option. Some home owners may elect to burn debris. Our laws do allow for burning within prescribed guidelines. Fire safety and burn regulation information is plentiful and easy to obtain. First steps should include the DNR field office in Detour, Clark Township fire department and the DNR website.

If you decide to burn:

1. **Burn barrels** with covers and holes no larger than ¾ inch are allowed and do not require a permit.
2. **Recreational fires**, which would describe small campfires on the beach, do not require a permit. The exception to this would be when the Governor issues a total ban on all burning due to extremely dry conditions in the state. In this case special signs are displayed in visible areas.
3. **Outdoor burning not covered in 1, or 2, require a permit.** Acquiring a permit is a very simple process. Just call the Detour Field Office and follow the menu instructions. Your telephone call creates the permit. There are no forms or paperwork to complete.
4. Burn **restrictions** and **contacts** are listed below.

Any burning requires adherence to basic fire safety practices. Do not leave a fire unattended and make sure it is totally extinguished. Have water or a fire extinguisher available and immediately call for help if things begin to get out of control.

The Clark Township Fire Department is accessed through 911.

Visit the DNR website or call the Detour Field Office for additional fire safety information.

Seasonal Burn Permit Restrictions

Spring

Fire Danger Rating

Low/Moderate
High
Very High/Extreme

Permit Restrictions

1-day anytime
1-day after 18:00 EDT
No permits issued

Summer

Fire Danger Rating

Low/Moderate/High w/ BUI > 40
Low/Moderate/High w/ BUI > 45
Low/Moderate/High w/ BUI >=45
Very High/Extreme

Permit Restrictions

3-day anytime
2-day anytime
1-day anytime
No permits issued

Note: BUI is a Forest Service index based on several factors to determine the level of danger. DNR monitors this index daily and adjusts the permit schedule as shown.

Information Resources

- **Burn Permit:** Detour field office
Chuck Lanning, Fire Officer
906-297-2581

Note: The Detour field office has primary responsibility for the Les Cheneaux area. Chuck Lanning has volunteered to educate residences on the use of portable pumps and other fire fighting practices useful for Island residents.

Sault Ste. Marie field office 906-635-6161 (back-up for Detour)

- **Educational presentation contacts:**
 - Chuck Lanning, Detour field office 906-297-2581
 - Charles Valier, Naubinway field office 906-477-6048
- **Clark Township Fire Department:**
 - Emergency – 911
 - Fire Chief- Chet Kasper 906-484-2856 (home)
 - Clark Township offices 906-484-2672
- **Online fire safety/fire prevention information:**
 - www.michigan.gov/dnr
 - www.firewise.org
 - www.smokeybear.com