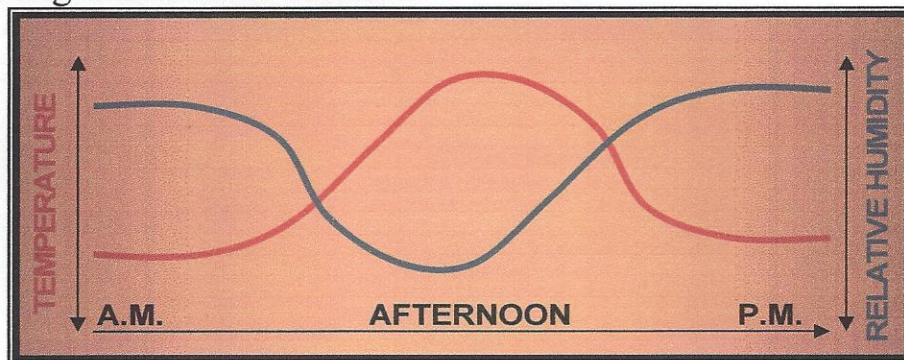




WHY CAN I ONLY BURN BETWEEN 5:00 p.m. & 9:00 a.m.?

There are several reasons that the state of New Hampshire requires that most open burning occur during the evening and nighttime hours.

- The main reason is to prevent and control wildland fires.
 - As the day progresses from morning to afternoon the environment changes and makes fire control more difficult.
 - The temperature increases in the afternoon and the surface fuels on the ground are pre-heated.
 - The relative humidity decreases in the afternoon and small fuels such as grasses, leaves and twigs dry out.
 - Winds pick up allowing sparks and embers to travel away from the fire, making control more difficult.



- Being a mostly rural state, New Hampshire relies on volunteer Fire Departments. During the daytime it is common for communities to have less coverage because many of their volunteers are at work. In the event a permitted fire did escape control, a quicker response may occur during the evening hours than during the day.

WHY IS A PERMIT REQUIRED?

Other than meeting the requirements of RSA 227-L:17, there are several reasons why permits are required.

- Permits are the first tool in Fire Prevention and education.
- It ensures that Forest Fire Wardens know where fires are occurring.
 - Often times a citizen may call 911 when they observe smoke in an area. If the Warden knows there is a Fire Permit for that area they may investigate the call first rather than call out an entire Department.
- It allows the Forest Fire Warden to inform the public when unsafe fire conditions may be present or predicted. This is important during times of High Fire Danger.
- It gives the Warden an opportunity to ensure that the fire is in a safe location and that the proper setbacks from structures are in place. (25 feet for Category I, 50 feet for all others)
- It protects the air quality in the state by outlining the materials which may be burned (clean, untreated wood/brush no greater than 5 inches in diameter).