



BCT Stewardship Journal: January 2025

Katie's Thoughts from the Trail: It's Open Burn Season!

Every year January 15 marks the start of Brewster's open burn season, providing a responsible way to dispose of landscape debris that might otherwise clutter yards or disturb forest productivity. BCT uses pile burns as a strategy to not only keep our properties tidy, but to also minimize the risk of wildfire and prevent the spread of invasive species. Shortly after burn season opened, BCT completed its first pile burn of the season. If you have a brush pile in need of disposal, consider obtaining a burn permit from Brewster's Fire Department. As a bonus, the ash from burned organic material can act as a natural fertilizer, returning vital minerals back to the soil and supporting local vegetation growth. If you plan on completing a pile burn, be sure you do so legally and safely by following these guidelines:

Check Regulations

Before you begin, check out the [MassDEP regulations](#) regarding open burning. It is important to understand what is permitted and what is not, including the types of materials that can be burned.

Obtain a Permit

You can obtain a permit for \$10 through the Brewster Fire Department. Check their website [here](#) to apply online or stop by the Fire Department Headquarters at 1671 Main Street, Monday through Friday 8:30am-4:00pm.

Choose the Right Day

Weather conditions affect whether or not you can burn. On the day you plan to burn, be sure to call the automated burn line number located on your permit to inquire if burning is permitted. If it is, you will be instructed to provide your permit number and location of the burn.

Monitor the Burn

Always stay with your fire and have a water source and shovels readily accessible. (Pro tip: be sure your hose is running and not frozen before you light the fire!!)

Timing and Duration

Burns are required to be lit between 10am and 12pm and be fully extinguished no later than 4pm.

For further information or clarification regarding open burning in Brewster, residents are encouraged to visit the [Brewster Fire Department's website](#). Let's dispose of outdoor debris in a responsible manner that benefits both our community and the environment. Happy burning!



BCT volunteers conducting a pile burn at Clark-MacGregor during the Open Burn Season in 2023.