



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Open Air Burning Ban in Effect in BWG

Bradford West Gwillimbury, ON (*April 3, 2020*) – Open air fires in Bradford West Gwillimbury are banned effective immediately in order to reduce the risk of preventable fires and reduce the strain on emergency services.

All burn permits are cancelled until further notice, and no new permits are being issued.

The ban applies throughout the municipality of Bradford West Gwillimbury, and prohibits all open air burning including burn barrels, fire pits, outdoor wood-burning appliances like chimineas and outdoor fireplaces, as well as campfires. Propane and natural gas appliances may be used according to the manufacturer's instructions and following guidelines for safe use, including distancing from combustibles. The use of barbeques of all types is permitted for the cooking of food only.

"We are taking every precaution to protect our essential workers from the spread of COVID-19," says Kevin Gallant, Chief of BWG Fire & Emergency Services. "Backyard fires are an unnecessary risk at this time, since investigating calls about smoke from recreational fires, or responding to outdoor fires that have accidentally spread, puts a strain on our resources and would put more firefighters and residents in contact with one other.

"It's a small measure but could make a big difference," Gallant says. "We thank everyone for their understanding and cooperation."

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**Media Contact:**

Olaf Lamerz  
Deputy Fire Chief, Fire & Emergency Services  
905-775-7311 x.4102  
[olamrez@townofBWG.com](mailto:olamrez@townofBWG.com)