

# STARLAND COUNTY

## POLICY MANUAL

<b>FUNTION:</b>	Protection Services
<b>FUNCTION NUMBERL:</b>	210
<b>POLICY:</b>	Control Fire Burn Operations and Procedures
<b>POLICY NUMBER:</b>	210-22
<b>DATE:</b>	December 9, 2015

**Purpose:** To establish and set forth guidelines for the proper issuance and control of “Fire Permits” issued by authorized County personnel for the purpose of burning of “Brush Piles” or large “Debris Piles”. The policy revision is to clearly outline specific requirements or procedures necessary when performing controlled burning operations whereby the activity may cause or impact the amenities of the surrounding properties including residential or commercial uses.

The Policy revision herein shall not restrict or impair those individuals as outlined under the Fire Protection Services Bylaw #1042 from carrying out their responsibilities as noted therein.

The revision shall be considered as an addendum to the existing requirements and obligations for controlled burning as defined under the Fire Protection Services Bylaw #1042 and will be noted as Schedule “A” to the Fire Permit.

### **Procedures:**

1. Fire Permits issued for the purpose of the controlled burning of brush piles or large debris piles shall be required to follow specific detailed procedures and controlled operations of the burn as outlined under Schedule “A” and deemed as part of the fire permit.
2. Each permit shall be reviewed and validated based on a number of factors including but limited to; location and proximity to other occupied lands, the quantity or volume of debris to be burnt, condition of debris piles, environment and weather conditions and overall site suitability.
3. Applications where the location or the condition of the piles are considered to be doubtful or pose concerns of adversely impacting neighboring occupants may require site inspection by the Fire Marshall or Fire Guardian prior to approval and may be deemed non-permitted based on the site evaluation.

4. The permit holder shall be responsible for performing all duties and requirements outlined under the Fire Permit and Schedule "A" as defined. Failure to comply with any portion of the Fire Permit Approval will be considered in violation with Starland County Fire Protection Services Bylaw #1042 and may be subject to those disciplinary actions outlined therein.
5. Schedule "A" of the Fire Permit is to be considered as part of the Fire Permit and those requirements outlined within may be amended to accommodate or address specific concerns or necessary measure deemed by the Fire Marshall or Fire Guardian.
6. For the purpose of ensuring those controlled burning operations undertaken for the burning of brush piles or large debris piles in Starland County are completed accordingly, the noted Schedule "A" document shall accompany all such approvals and shall consist, but not limited, to the following precautionary and restrictive measures as prescribed herein.
  - A) The burn area must be properly safe guarded and protected from spreading to other locations or other properties.
  - B) All burn piles shall be considered ready for efficient burning to ensure effective and timely burning of debris. This will require the material piles to be properly desiccated or cured for burning, piles are to be clean of earth or soil materials, pushed or windrowed piles to not exceed 60 meters in length and separated by 8 meter firebreaks.
  - C) Burn piles shall not exceed a total surface area of 1,200 square meters.
  - D) No more than one pile or aggregate total of 1,200 square meters of material to be burnt at one time.
  - E) Burning operations are to be kept to a manageable and controllable degree in order that the burn can be carried out in a timely manner and completed within the same day of ignition. Each individual burn site shall be terminated at the end of the same day and must be extinguished. This can be completed through burning of the smoldering debris or by applying water.
  - F) The permit holder must have sufficient equipment onsite to perform the necessary completion operations of the burn as outlined herein.
  - G) The permit holder shall obtain utility locate approvals and clearance prior to commencement of the burning operations to accommodate debris cleanup. Copies of this documentation to be provided to the Fire Marshall or Fire Guardian prior to validation of the fire permit.
  - H) The permit holder hereby understands and acknowledges the terms, responsibilities and obligations of the approval and to maintain complete control of the fire operations at all times.

- l) The Fire Marshall may revoke or terminate the Fire Permit at any time if it is determined that any portion or part of the conditions of the approval have been found in non-compliance, or for any other reason deemed necessary.