

Camping

at a campground
during a Restricted Fire Zone



Know the rules. It's important and it's the law!



What is a **restricted fire zone**?

A Restricted Fire Zone (RFZ) is a geographic area where the use of open fires, such as campfires or debris burning, is restricted. It is a temporary measure put in place by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) to prevent human-caused fires.

What are the rules?

Under the Outdoor Fires Regulation of the Forest Fires Prevention Act, a campground is defined as offering camping facilities to the public on a temporary basis. These operators may allow their guests to continue enjoying campfires during an RFZ if:

1. The fire is contained in:
 - a) an above ground fire grate or fireplace that is designed to burn wood safely and that cannot be moved to an unsafe location, or
 - b) a pit in the ground that has fireproof walls and is designed to burn wood safely.
2. The fire is at least 3 metres from any forest area, and the area within the 3 metre radius is completely free of flammable material.
3. The space immediately above the fire installation is at least 3 metres from any overhanging vegetation.
4. The owner or operator of the campground expressly permits the fire to be set during a time when the campground is in a restricted fire zone.
5. The campground allows camping only in cabins and designated campsites, and all are accessible by motor vehicle as defined in the Highway Traffic Act.
6. The campground does not allow campfires between 10 am and 7 pm.
7. The campground clearly posts the hours campfires will be allowed.
8. The campground has printed information on safe campfires and provides it to all of its guests.
9. The campground has adequate equipment to control and extinguish a fire that can be taken to any campsite or cabin within 10 minutes.
10. The campground has, on site at all times, staff who are instructed in the location and use of the fire suppression equipment described above.
11. The campground has reliable two-way telecommunications equipment to allow it to obtain assistance if a fire escapes control.

Report a forest fire

You can help protect Ontario's forests. If you see smoke or flames, or would like to report an unattended fire, call **310-FIRE (3473)** north of the French and Mattawa rivers, or **911** south of the rivers.