



# CITY OF GARDNER

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
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**OFFICE OF FIRE CHIEF**  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **OPEN FIRE BAN LIFTED**

November 29, 2024

**To: All Gardner Residents**  
**Subject: Open Fire Ban**

Effective today, due to the recent transition to a more normal, seasonal weather pattern, the open fire ban is lifted. The greater Gardner area experienced three significant precipitation events over the last week resulting in approximately three inches total of rainfall. Although the drought is not over, the multiple weather systems have allowed surface fuels to absorb moisture, significantly lowering the fire risk.

The lifting of this ban applies to contained fires for cooking, recreational, ornamental, or camping purposes. This includes fires associated with fire pits (maximum 3' diameter), chimineas, and outdoor fireplaces. Only clean, chemical-free wood can be used as fuel. The burning of trash, rubbish, furniture, construction debris, and leaves are prohibited per regulations established by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

As a reminder, the burning of brush piles and other yard/garden debris is prohibited at this time. The open brush burning season (regulated by MA DEP) runs annually from January 15<sup>th</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup>. During that time, a permit must be obtained from the Fire Department prior to burning brush.

All residents are also asked to continue to use caution with any type of open fire. The risk, while now significantly lowered, is never at zero.

Residents are asked to call the Gardner Fire Department at 978-632-1616 with any questions regarding open burning regulations.

Respectfully,

Gregory F. Lagoy  
Gardner Fire Chief