

The Village of Standard
 Bylaw # 2024-08
 Fire Permit Bylaw

A BYLAW OF THE VILLAGE OF STANDARD IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE OF PERSONS AND THE PROTECTION OF PEOPLE AND PROPERTY FROM INJURY AND DAMAGE BY FIRE.

WHEREAS the Municipal Government Act R.S.A. 2000 c. M-26.1, as amended, provides that a Council of a Municipality may pass bylaws for the safety, health and welfare of people and the protection of people and property, and for services provided by or on behalf of the municipality;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Village of Standard wishes to regulate the use and setting of fires;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Village of Standard, in Council duly assembled, hereby enacts as follows:

DEFINITIONS

Apparatus	shall mean any vehicle, machinery, device, equipment or material used for Firefighting, as well as any vehicle used for transporting firefighters and/or supplies.
CAO	shall mean the Chief Administrative Officer of the Village of Standard.
Contained Fire	means a Fire which is totally confined within a non-combustible structure or container and which is vented in such a manner as to preclude the escape of combustible materials such as ash.
Council	shall mean the Council of the Village of Standard.
Department	shall mean the Fire Department of the Village of Standard.
Deputy	shall mean the Deputy Chief of the Village of Standard fire department.
Enforcement Officer	means a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, a municipal constable, a special constable, or a person designated by the Village of Standard to enforce this Bylaw.
Equipment	shall mean any tools, contrivances, devices or materials used by the department to combat any incident or emergency.
Fire	means any combustible material in a state of combustion.
Fire Chief	shall mean the chief of the Village of Standard fire department.
Fire Hazard	means any condition, circumstance or event wherein the possibility of Fire is increased.
Fire Permit	means a permit issued by the Fire Chief or Designate pursuant to this Bylaw, on the form adopted by the Village from time to time
Fire Protection	shall mean all aspects of fire safety, including but not limited to fire prevention, firefighting or suppression, pre-fire planning, fire inspection, public education and information, training or other staff development and advising.
Incident	shall mean a fire or situation where an explosion is imminent or any other situation where there is danger or a possible danger to life or property or both and to which the Department has responded.
Incinerator Fire	means a Fire that is contained within a noncombustible structure or container that complies with the requirements of the <u>Safety Codes Act</u> .
Member	shall mean any member of the Department.

Order	means a written order in accordance with the Municipal Government Act R.S.A. 2000 c. M-26.1, section 545.
Outdoor Fire	means any Fire not contained within a building or structure and shall include Fire involving humus soil, piles of coal, farm produce, waste, bush, grass seed, straw or any Fire that has escaped or spread from a building, structure machine, or vehicle and any Fire set for the purpose of thawing frozen ground.
Property	shall mean any real or personal Property, which without limiting the generality of the foregoing includes land and structures.
Recreational Fire	means a Fire confined to a noncombustible container, which is set for the purpose of cooking, obtaining warmth or viewing for pleasure. Such Fire may only be fuelled with untreated seasoned wood, charcoal, natural gas or propane. (see Schedule C)
Running Fire	shall mean a fire burning without being under the proper control of any person.
Structure Fire	shall mean a fire confined to and within any building, structure, machine or vehicle which will or is likely to cause the destruction of or damage to such building, structure, machine or vehicle.
Village	shall mean the Village of Standard.
Violation Tag	shall mean an infraction notice issued by the Enforcement Officer for the purpose of informing someone of an infraction under this bylaw.
Violation Ticket	shall mean a ticket issued for an offence committed against any of the provisions of this bylaw and shall be in the form prescribed by the <u>Provincial Offences Procedure Act</u> , R.S.S. 1980 c.P21.5.

SECTION 1 FIRE PERMITS

- 1.1 An application for a Fire Permit for an Outdoor Fire or a Structure Fire shall be made to the Fire Chief or Designate in writing and the Fire Chief or Designate shall receive and consider the application and having done so he may, in his absolute discretion, issue the applicant a Fire Permit.
- 1.2 When issuing a Fire Permit the Fire Chief or Designate may issue the Fire Permit unconditionally or he may impose conditions he or she considers appropriate.
- 1.3 Fire Permits issued pursuant to this Bylaw are valid for such period as shall be determined and set by the Fire Chief or Designate issuing the Permit and the Fire Permit shall have endorsed thereon the period of time for which the said permit is valid. The Fire Chief or Designate may extend the period of time for which the Fire Permit is valid if the Fire Permit has not expired
- 1.4 The Fire Chief or Designate may suspend or cancel at any time a Fire Permit, and on receiving notice of the suspension or cancellation, the person concerned shall immediately extinguish any fire set pursuant to his/her Fire Permit.
- 1.5 Each application for a Fire Permit shall contain the following information:
- a. the name and address of the applicant
 - b. the legal description of the land on which the applicant proposes to set a fire
 - c. the type and description of material which the applicant proposes to burn
 - d. the period of time for which the Fire Permit is valid
 - e. the precautions, if any, that will be taken by the applicant to ensure that the proposed Fire remains under his or her control
 - f. the signature of the applicant
 - g. the signature of the Fire Chief or Designate issuing the Fire Permit

- 1.6 A Fire Chief or Designate may issue a Fire Permit even if all of the above information has not been provided. Further, the Fire Chief or Designate may require additional information prior to issuing a Fire Permit.
- 1.7 A Fire Permit is not transferable from one individual to another, nor from one parcel of land to another.
- 1.8 Permits for fireworks and fire crackers must be approved by the Village of Standard Council and may be issued by the Fire Chief or Designate.

SECTION 2 RECOVERY OF FIREFIGHTING COSTS

- 2.1 Where the Department has taken any action whatsoever for the purpose of extinguishing a fire or responding to a fire call or incident in or outside the Village or for the purpose of preserving life or property from injury or destruction by fire or any other incident on land within or outside of the Village, including any action taken by the Department on a false alarm, the CAO may in respect of any costs incurred by the Department in taking such action, if the CAO feels that proper grounds for doing so exist:
 - (a) charge any costs so incurred to the owner or occupant of the land in respect of which the action was taken
 - (b) charge any costs so incurred to any other person who causes or contributes to the fire
- 2.2 The costs and fees to be charged by the Department for services rendered pursuant to this Bylaw shall be determined by Council by resolution from time to time, as per Schedule A.
- 2.3 In the event that the owner or occupant of any land within the Village shall feel aggrieved by any action taken by the CAO pursuant to Section 4.1, such owner or occupant shall have a period of thirty (30) days from the date of mailing notice of the action taken by the CAO to appeal to Council the action taken by the CAO and the decision of Council on any such appeal shall be final and binding upon the owner or occupant of the land and shall not be subject to any further appeal.
- 2.4 In the respect of land within the Village, in the event that the amount levied by the CAO shall be not paid within sixty (60) days after the mailing of a notice by the CAO pursuant to Section 4.1, or in the event of an appeal, within sixty (60) days of the date of mailing of the decision of Council on the appeal, the amount levied and unpaid shall be charged against the land upon which the fire was started as taxes due and owing in respect to that land.
- 2.5 For those instances where the costs of fire services may not be recovered from the attachment of fees to the taxes, the Village may upon the recommendation of the CAO, pursue payment through any other means it deems necessary, including civil action.

SECTION 3 OFFENCES

- 3.1 No person shall:
- 3.2 light an Outdoor or Structure Fire unless:
 - a. that person is the holder of a subsisting Fire Permit;
 - b. the Fire is an Incinerator Fire;
 - c. the Fire has been set by the Department for the purpose of training Department members;
 - d. the Fire is a Recreational Fire;
 - e. the Fire is a controlled burn in a Village landfill site set or directed to be set by the Village.
- 3.3 permit an Outdoor Fire or Structure Fire to be lit upon land that is owned or occupied by that person, or under that person's control except when such a Fire is allowed under this Bylaw;
- 3.4 No person shall:
 - a. light a Fire when the conditions are conducive to creating a Running Fire;
 - b. fail to take reasonable steps to control a Fire for the purpose of preventing it from becoming a Running Fire or from spreading onto property other than his or her own;

- c. deposit, discard or leave any burning matter or substance where it might ignite other materials and cause a Fire;
- d. conduct any activity that involves the use of Fire that might reasonably be expected to cause a Fire unless that person exercises reasonable care to prevent the Fire from occurring;
- e. use a Fire to burn:
 - (a) material that will result in the production of thick black smoke
 - (b) herbicides, pesticides or other toxic materials or substances
 - (c) materials prohibited under the Air Emissions Regulation of the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act
- f. conduct any activity that involves the use of a Fire , where smoke from the Fire may impede visibility of the vehicular traffic on any Highway as defined in the Highway Traffic Act R.S.A. 2000 c. H-8;
- g. light a Fire on lands owned or controlled by the Village except with the Village's express written consent or if a Recreational Fire , in a fireplace or campfire pit provided by the Village for that purpose;
- h. light a Fire in an area that is subject to a Fire Ban.

3.5 When a fire is lit under the circumstances described in Section 3.2, the owner or occupier of the land or the person having control of the land upon which the fire is lit shall:

- a. extinguish the fire immediately, or
- b. where he is unable to extinguish the fire immediately, report the fire to the Department by phoning E911

3.6 No person shall, either directly or indirectly, personally or through an agent, servant or employee kindle a fire and let it become a Running Fire on any land not his own property, or allow a Running Fire to pass from his property to the property of another

3.7 With the exception of Recreational Fires or Incinerator Fires (see Schedule C) no person shall conduct open burning within 15 meters of a structure.

3.8 No person shall allow property which he owns or occupies to become a fire hazard through either:

- a. the accumulation of combustible materials
- b. lack of maintenance to the property or the structures upon it
- c. any other contravention of municipal, provincial or federal regulations

3.9 No person shall:

- a. provide false, incomplete or misleading information on or with respect to the Fire Permit application
- b. interfere with the efforts of persons authorized in this Bylaw to extinguish fires or preserve life or property
- c. interfere with the Department's equipment or apparatus required to extinguish fire or to preserve life and property
- d. damage or destroy the Department's property
- e. falsely represent himself as a Member, or wear or display any emergency services badge, cap, button, insignia or other paraphernalia for the purpose of false representation.

SECTION 4 FIRE BANS

4.1 From time to time as conditions dictate the Village may impose a full or restricted ban upon open fires within the Village of Standard.

- 4.2 These bans or restrictions may be imposed by the Village administration upon the recommendation of the Fire Chief.
- 4.3 When a fire ban is imposed the Village shall post the fire ban information in local areas and any other means the CAO considers appropriate.
- 4.4 Fire bans may be lifted or modified upon recommendation from the Fire Chief or Designate.

SECTION 5 PENALTIES

- 5.1 Where an Enforcement Officer has reasonable grounds to believe that a person has committed a breach of any of the provisions of this Bylaw, he may issue and serve such person with an Order, a Violation Tag, or a Violation Ticket.
- 5.2 The violation shall be in such a form as determined by the Council of The Village of Standard, and shall state the section of the Bylaw that was contravened and the amount of the penalty provided in Schedule "B" that will be accepted by the Village of Standard in lieu of prosecution.
- 5.3 Upon production of a violation issued pursuant to Section 7.1 (a) within ten (10) days from the issuance thereof, together with the designated payment to the administration of the Village of Standard, the person to whom the violation was issued shall not be liable to prosecution for the contravention in respect of which the violation was issued.
- 5.4 Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a person to whom the violation was issued may exercise his right to defend any charge of committing a contravention of any of the provisions of this Bylaw.
- 5.5 Where a person who has been issued a Violation Tag has not, within ten (10) clear days of the issuance thereof, paid the specified penalty, an Enforcement Officer may then issue a Violation Ticket compelling that person to prosecution of the offence.
- 5.6 Where an offence of this Bylaw continues for more than one day, an Enforcement Officer may issue a Violation Tag for each day that the offence continues.

SECTION 6 SUMMARY CONVICTIONS

- 6.1 Any person who contravenes any provision of this Bylaw is guilty of an offence and is liable upon conviction to a fine not less than one hundred (100) dollars or as otherwise specified under Schedule "B", exclusive of costs.
- 6.2 No person found guilty of an offence pursuant to this Bylaw shall be liable to imprisonment

SECTION 7 NOTICE

- 7.1 Any notice provided for in this Bylaw shall be in writing.
- 7.2 Service of any notice provided for in this Bylaw may be made as follows:
 - a. personally upon the person to be served; or
 - b. by mailing the copy to the person to be served by registered mail to the last known post office address of the person to be served, and service shall be deemed effected at the time the copy is delivered by an official of the post office to the person to be served or to any person receiving it on his or her behalf; or
 - c. where the Property is not occupied, by mailing the notice by registered mail or certified mail to the mailing address noted on the Village tax roll for the Property, and service shall be deemed effected at the time the copy is delivered by an official of the post office to the person to be served or to any person receiving it on his or her behalf; or
 - d. as directed by the Court.

SECTION 8 LIABILITY

8.1 The Fire Chief, and Members of the department are not liable for loss or damage caused by anything said, done, omitted or to be done in the performance or intended performance of their functions, duties or powers unless the Fire Chief or member was dishonest, grossly negligent or guilty of willful misconduct.

SECTION 9 SEVERABILITY

9.1 Should any section or part of this Bylaw be found to have been improperly enacted or ultra vires, for any reason, then such section or part shall be regarded as severable from the rest of this Bylaw and this Bylaw remaining after such severance shall be effective and enforceable as if the section found to be improperly enacted had not been enacted as part of this Bylaw.

SECTION 10 APPEAL

10.1 Any person who considers him or herself aggrieved by a written order give pursuant to this Bylaw may appeal the direction to the Council under the terms of the Municipal Government Act.

SECTION 11 REPEAL

Upon third reading of Bylaw 2024-06, Bylaw 2002-07 and all amendments thereto are hereby repealed.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Read the first time on this 10th day of July 2024.


Read the second time on this 14th Day of August 2024.

Read the third time on this 11th day of September 2024.

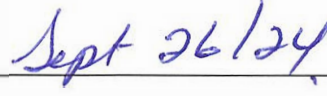


Mayor

Date



CAO



Date

SCHEDULE A

FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES FEES

- 1) Fire apparatus shall be billed for at the current Alberta Transport and Utilities rate, with the exception of mutual aid apparatus which will be billed for at the responding agency's mutual aid rate.
- 2) Any other fire related costs including but not limited to heavy equipment, water tankers, and investigation costs, may be billed at the Village's cost for providing the service.

SCHEDULE B

VILLAGE OF STANDARD'S SPECIFIED PENALTIES

ALL PENALTIES ARE EXCLUSIVE OF COSTS

Offence Reference	OFFENCE	Amount of Fine
4.1	Lighting an outdoor or structure Fire Permit <div style="text-align: right;"> First Offence Second Offence Third & Subsequent Offence </div>	<div style="text-align: right;"> \$100.00 \$200.00 \$300.00 </div>
5.2(b)	Failure to prevent a Fire from becoming a Running Fire or from spreading onto Property other than his/her own	\$500.00
(c)	Deposit, discard or leave burning matter or substance where it might ignite other materials and cause a Fire	\$200.00
(d)	Conduct any activity that involves the use of Fire that might reasonably be expected to cause a Fire	\$250.00
(e)	Burning prohibited debris	\$200.00
(f)	Smoke from Fire impeding visibility of vehicular traffic on a Highway	\$300.00
(g)	Light a Fire on lands owned or controlled by the Village, except for a Recreational Fire in a fireplace or campfire pit provided by the Village for that purpose	\$250.00
(h)	Light a Fire during a Fire Ban	\$500.00
5.3	Failure to immediately extinguish a Fire lit under the circumstances described under Section 5.2	\$300.00
5.4	Allow a Fire to become a Running Fire, or let a Running Fire pass from his/her Property to the Property of another	\$2,500.00
5.5	Conduct burning within 15 meters of a structure	\$250.00
5.6	Allow a Property to become a Fire Hazard	\$1,000.00
5.7(a)	Provide false, incomplete or misleading information on a Fire Permit	\$250.00
5.7(b)	Interfere with the efforts of persons authorized in this Bylaw to extinguish Fire or preserve life or Property	\$350.00
5.7(c)	Interfere with the Department's equipment or Apparatus required to extinguish Fires or to Preserve life and Property	\$350.00
5.7(d)	Damage or destroy the Department's property	\$350.00
5.7(e)	False representation as a Member	\$250.00

SCHEDULE C

The following parameters shall be met when defining recreational fires not requiring a Fire Permit.

- a) A minimum of 4 meters clearance is maintained from buildings, property lines and combustible materials, or as approved by the local authority having jurisdiction;
- b) It is constructed of bricks or concrete blocks or heavy gauge metal or other suitable non-combustible materials;
- c) It has a spark arrestor mesh screen of 0.7 centimeters (.25 inches) expanded metal (or equivalent) to contain sparks over the fire at all times;
- d) They are supervised at all times by a responsible adult until such time as the fire has been extinguished. A fire shall be deemed to include hot ashes and smoldering embers from the fire;
- e) Only untreated wood, charcoal briquettes propane or natural gas fuels are used;
- f) Flame height does not exceed 90cm (3.28 feet) above the incinerator, barbeque or fire pit.
- g) Propane or natural gas fueled fire pits and heaters must be ULC/CSA approved. The fire pit or heater must be certified for outdoor use and assembled, installed, and operated following the manufacturer's instructions.
 - a. Fire pit must be used in accordance with manufactures recommendations. If no recommendations can be found a minimum distance of 1.22 meters from any combustible materials should be observed.
 - b. Operate with natural gas or propane only.

