

Agricultural Burning

Massachusetts General Law and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) allow for open agricultural burning (M.G.L c. 111 s. 142L) in Holden on land that is used for agricultural purposes. The statute is designed for the burning of blueberry patches, dead raspberry stock, fruit tree pruning and affected beehives for disease control. It is also designed for burning of brush and trees resulting from agricultural land clearing operations.

The following conditions apply:

1. Land on which burning will be conducted shall meet the requirements of M.G.L c. 128 s. 1A
2. The fire and smoke must not pose a hazard to any property.
3. The smoke must not create a nuisance or health hazard in the neighborhood.
4. Burning shall be on land approximate to the place of generation of such material.
5. Burning must be at least 75 feet from any combustible building
6. No burning may take place before 10:00am and must be completely extinguished/out by 4:00pm
7. A competent adult must be in attendance at all times, the fire shall not be left unattended.
8. Fire controlling equipment shall be available at all times during the burn.

Notification:

Per the provisions of M.G.L c. 48 s. 13, notification shall be made to the Holden Fire Department of the intent to burn prior to any burning for every burn day at the following link:

[HFD Agricultural Burn Notification \(mapsonline.net\)](https://mapsonline.net)

The department can also be notified by phone at 508-210-5650. Agricultural burning will not be allowed on days when the DEP deems the air quality to be poor or the Commonwealth issues a Red Flag Warning due to the presence of dangerous combinations of temperature, wind, relative humidity, fuel or drought conditions which can contribute to rapid fire spread. A Red Flag Warning can be issued at any time throughout the day. In these instances, the department will contact those who notified the department of intent to burn.