



Monday April 6, 2020  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Township of Southgate is NOT currently under a fire ban. There has been a lot of confusion over the past couple days with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry announcing a fire ban in the northern fire regions. This ban does not cover the entire province. For areas outside of the fire region it is under the jurisdiction of the Chief Fire Official to control, monitor and issue a fire ban if necessary. Fire Chief Malynyk is assessing the situation day by day. While a fire ban may serve other communities at this time the Fire Chief believes it will not be beneficial for the Township of Southgate.

We understand that many residents of our community have been staying home and we do not want to take away your ability to enjoy a small responsible campfire with your family. If you choose to have a campfire with your family, please ensure you are following the open-air burn by-law, burning clean, dry wood and being respectful of your neighbours. We also would like to remind everyone to follow the guidelines put into place by the Government of Ontario to practice social distancing and limit the number of people who are not in your immediate family or live in your household to five people. A small, contained campfire does not require an official burn permit.

Further, our rural community is cleaning up their yards and getting ready for the new crop season and we understand the importance of being able to do this responsibly and safely. Please note you are required to have a valid 2020 burn permit for this activity and must follow all the rules of the Township of Southgate's open-air burn By-law. Any violation of these rules will result in fines. All burn permit applications and instructions can be found online at [www.southgate.ca](http://www.southgate.ca) or by calling the office at 519-923-2110.

Thank you,

Derek Malynyk, Fire Chief Official  
Dundalk Fire Department  
Township of Southgate