

Wood Cutting Policy

HP-008

OBJECTIVE/PURPOSE

To provide a consistent policy that defines activities regarding domestic woodcutting within the Town of Holyrood “the Town”.

PERMITS

All residents, developers or owners shall obtain the necessary permits *as prescribed by the Development Regulations, Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000 or the Municipalities Act, 1999* from the Town prior to commencement of any work or development.

All woodcutting activities within the Town on private land, with permission from the landowner, or on Crown land requires a permit.

A Domestic Woodcutting permit from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador must be obtained prior to any wood cutting activities commences within the Town.

Municipal Permits will be issued once proof of a Domestic Woodcutting permit has been verified. Permits may be obtained by contacting town staff at 229-7252 or by e-mailing info@holyrood.ca.

For more information on domestic woodcutting please refer to the Guide to Domestic Woodcutting included with this document.

The below information is from the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador and is provided herein for information purposes. Please ensure the below is still current at the time of obtaining your permit:

Newfoundlanders and Labradorians can now obtain domestic wood cutting permits and access important domestic cutting information online via [MyGovNL](#). This new service is designed to provide a quick and efficient way to obtain a permit from the comfort of home.

Domestic wood cutting permits can still be obtained in person at [Forestry and Wildlife Offices](#) throughout the province.

Paddy's Pond District Office Forest Management District 1

220 Paddy's Pond Road

P.O. Box 13036

Paddy's Pond, NL A1B 3V8

Google Maps: <https://goo.gl/maps/A5foWEaQ8t12> Opens in new window

Email: PaddysPondForestry@gov.nl.ca

Phone: (709) 729-4180 Fax: (709) 729-4292

Salmonier Satellite Office

General Delivery

Mount Carmel, NL A0B 2M0

Phone: (709) 229-7826

Seasonal Operation

May – September: Schedule varies

Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Closed lunchtime: 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

POLICY STATEMENT

GUIDELINES

Development on Town owned property often requires mature forested areas to be harvested.

Council has recognized these areas and the domestic woodcutting opportunity for the residents of the Town. This document provides a procedure to follow that ensures the proper governance, management, and transparency regarding woodcutting on all town owned property.

Once an area has been identified that requires trees to be harvested, a social media post will be generated on all media platforms the Town utilizes for a minimum of one week. This will provide all residents with an opportunity to contact the office to advise staff they would like to avail of the opportunity to cut the wood.




After one week all the names received by staff will be entered into a computer program that will select a name at random. The selected person will be the

individual who will be awarded the wood cutting opportunity and permit from the Town providing the following:

- Proof of a domestic woodcutting permit from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is provided.
- Wood has to be cut within the period specified by the Town. Any person(s) aiding the selected person must be identified.
- The permit holder and any person(s) aiding the permit holder must sign the attached waiver of liability.
- The permit holder shall comply with all other applicable legislation, including ant workplace safety guidelines or legislation, if applicable.
- The Director of Infrastructure and Public Works (IFPW) will conduct a site visit with the permit holder to define what wood can be harvested.
- During the site visit the Director will also determine what site conditions must be when the permit holder has completed the wood cutting, i.e., all boughs must be removed from site, boughs can be burned on site with a fire permit from the fire department or boughs can be left on site as is.
- Failure to cut the wood during the agreed upon time period or leaving the site in a condition not suitable to the town will result in the permit holder not being able to enter into the draw system for a period of five (5) years.
- Damage to town infrastructure by the permit holder is the responsibility of the permit holder.
- The permit shall cost \$50.00.

REVIEW

This policy will be subject to review as the Department of Infrastructure and Public Works finds it necessary given new experience or information.

Wood cutting Policy HP-008		
Written By:	Robert Stacey, DIFPW	Date: MAY 12, 2023 
Approved By:	Gary Corbett, CAO	Date: May 12, 2023 
Approved By:	Gary Goobie, Mayor	Date: May 12, 2023 

REVISION HISTORY			
Revise #:	Date:	Revised By:	Approved By:



ACCIDENT WAIVER AND RELEASE LIABILITY FORM

I HEREBY ASSUME ALL OF THE RISKS IN PARTICIPATING IN ANY/ALL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCEDURE, BEING HARVESTING WOOD AS OUTLINED IN PERMIT NO. _____ including by way of example and not limitation, any risks that may arise from negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons or entities being released, from dangerous or defective equipment or property owned, maintained, or controlled by them, or because of their possible liability without fault.

I certify that I am physically fit, have sufficiently prepared or trained for participation in this activity, and have not been advised to not participate by a qualified medical professional. I certify that there are no health-related reasons or problems which preclude my participation in this activity.

I acknowledge that this Accident Waiver and Release of Liability Form will be used by the Town of Holyrood for the activity in which I willingly participate, and that it will govern my actions and responsibilities at said activity.

In consideration of my application and permitting me to participate in this activity, I hereby take action for myself, volunteers, executors, administrators, heirs, next of kin, successors, and assigns as follows:

- (A) I WAIVE, RELEASE, AND DISCHARGE from any and all liability, including but not limited to, liability arising from the negligence or fault of the entities or persons released, for my death, disability, personal injury, property damage, property theft, or actions of any kind which may hereafter occur to me including my travelling to and from this activity, THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES OR PERSONS : The Town of Holyrood and/or their directors, officers, employees, volunteers, representatives, and agents, and the activity holders, sponsors, and property owners.
- (B) INDEMNIFY, HOLD HARMLESS, AND PROMISE NOT TO SUE the entities or persons mentioned in this paragraph from any and all liabilities or claims made as a result in participation in this activity, whether caused by the negligence of release or otherwise.

I acknowledge that The Town of Holyrood and their directors, officers, volunteers, representatives, and agents are NOT responsible for the errors, omissions, acts, or failures to act of any party or entity conducting a specific activity on their behalf.



I acknowledge that this activity may involves a test of a person’s physical and mental limits and carries with it the potential for death, serious injury, and property loss. The risks include, but are limited to, those caused by terrain, facilities, temperature, weather, condition of participants, equipment, vehicular traffic, lack of hydration, and actions of other people including, but not limited to, participants, volunteers, monitors, and/or producers of the activity. These risks are not only inherent to participants but are also present for volunteers.

The Accident Waiver and Release of Liability Form shall be construed broadly to provide a release and waiver to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law.

I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE READ THIS DOCUMENT AND I FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENT.
I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND A CONTRACT AND I SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

Participant’s Signature
(Guardian if under 18)

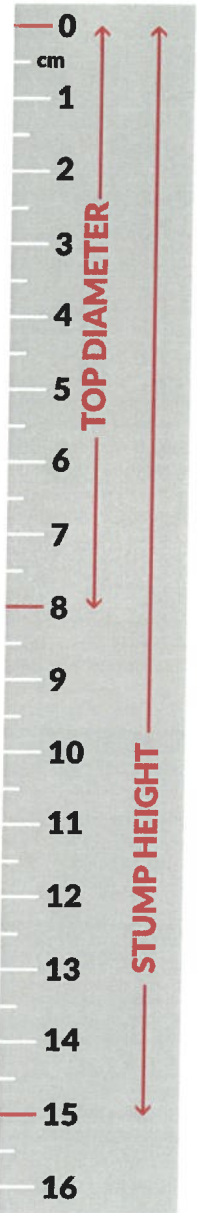
Date

Participant’s Name

Activity



Guide to Domestic Woodcutting



Valuable wood

Responsible wood use is about obtaining the best value from any tree cut. Forest stands with sawlogs should not be cut for firewood. Leaving low stumps and small tree tops mean less wood wasted. Stumps should be no higher than 15 centimetres (six inches), and tops should be no larger than eight centimetres (three inches) in diameter.



Fuel handling

To avoid spills and leaks, proper fuel and oil handling techniques are important. Even a small spill or leak can have damaging effects on water, fish and wildlife.

Fuel must be stored in CSA approved containers and refueling should not take place within 30 metres of any water body. The use of waste oil as chain lubricant is prohibited and all oil should

be brought out of the woods and disposed of properly. If a fuel spill or leak does occur, it should be contained and cleaned up immediately. If you

are handling large quantities of fuel and oil, spill kits are useful and highly recommended. If the volume of a spill is more than 70 litres, it must be immediately reported to the Canadian Coast Guard Spill Report Line at (709) 772-2083 or 1-800-563-9089.

Wildfire prevention

Generally, the forest fire season in Newfoundland and Labrador runs from April to October. During forest fire season, domestic woodcutters are required to have an Operating Permit, in addition to their Cutting Permits. These permits may be obtained at any Forestry Office. During fire season, domestic woodcutters must also adhere to the following requirements:

- Chainsaws and all-terrain vehicles (ATV) must be equipped with appropriate mufflers and spark arrestors to prevent flammable debris from escaping.
- When using a chainsaw or riding an ATV on forested land, residents are required to have a fire extinguisher that contains a minimum of 225 grams of ABC class dry chemical.

Where can I cut firewood?

Domestic woodcutting is only permitted in designated areas on Crown land. Every domestic cutting permit contains a map with specific information domestic cutters should know. Cutting within approved boundaries ensures wood is cut in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner. If you are unsure of your area, check with your local Forestry Office before you cut.

Snag and wildlife trees

Wildlife will often depend on trees to survive. In particular, birds use dead trees to nest and feed on insects. When cutting wood, it is advisable to leave several trees in an area for wildlife to use. When selecting trees to leave consider:



- forest animals tend to prefer trees with poor form and various levels of decay;
- the most valuable wildlife trees are greater than 50 centimetres (20 inches) in diameter;
- birch, white spruce, and dead trees without branches are the most resistant trees to wind;
- trees can include dead (snags), live standing, and clumps of trees that have little commercial value;
- individual trees are good, but clumps can also remain;
- large living trees with existing cavities, wounds where rot can occur, broken tops, and dead branches are good candidates; and
- where possible leave both hardwood and softwood trees of different sizes in clumps

Protecting regeneration

When cutting wood, ensure small trees and seedlings are protected so they may grow into our future firewood and sawlogs.

Protecting our forests

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is committed to responsible stewardship of the province's forests, sustainability of the resource, and ensuring forest related activities on Crown land are conducted under approved environmental procedures.

Forest operations managed by the province are monitored through an Environmental Management System, which is currently certified to the ISO 14001:2015 standard.

This leaflet has been developed to provide domestic woodcutters with an overview of their responsibilities under the system.

Buffer zones

Water is a valuable resource which must be protected from pollution, soil erosion and changes in temperature. During cutting operations, environmental guidelines require a strip of trees to be left around all bodies of water such as streams, brooks, rivers, ponds and lakes. These trees act as buffers and provide habitat and travel corridors for wildlife. Buffer zones help regulate water temperatures and prevent sediment from ending up in water bodies. In domestic woodcutting operations, these buffers may vary in width from 30 metres to more than 500 metres depending on the resource being protected. Domestic woodcutters are reminded to review their cutting permit conditions, to determine the specific buffer zone widths for their area of operation.



Stay compliant. Review your cutting permit conditions and maps.

For more information on our environmental management system, please contact your local district office, or visit: gov.nl.ca/flr

Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
P.O. Box 2006
Corner Brook, NL A2H 6J8