

Clay Township Phragmites Advisory Board **Policy on burning Phragmites**

adopted 10-18-11

Reference contact information:

Clay Township Phragmites Advisory Board – 810-519-2985
Harsens Island Fire Chief - Darrell DuPage - 810-794-9347 or 810-459-7923

Timing:

Burning should not be done within 6 weeks prior to the chemical treatment. Since treatments are to be completed by the end of September, burning must be completed by mid-August.

Burning should not be done within 2 weeks following the chemical treatment.

Burning should not be done from April 15 to July 15 due to nesting birds.

Whenever possible, burning should be done between November 1 and April 15.

Burning during the summer months is not recommended since the Phragmites will be dry and will create conditions which are harder to control the intensity of the spread of the fire.

Procedure:

All burning requires a permit from the Clay Township Fire Department. There is no charge for this permit.

Call the Clay Township Fire Department at 810-794-9347 or 810-459-7923 to arrange for an inspection and consultation by the Clay Township Fire Chief.

At the inspection the following topics will be discussed.

- The physical limits of the area to be burned
- Conditions needed for a safe burn
- Possible hazards to utilities, buildings and adjacent properties
- Who will do the burn?
- When?
- Procedures, equipment and manpower needed
- Notifying the Fire Department

If the Fire Department will be assisting with your burn

Your property will be placed on a list of sites to be burned. You will be asked if you want to be present during the burn. You should then have the property prepared and ready for burning by November 1. The burn may take place any time between November 1 and April 15. In rare instances burns may be done between July 15 and August 15. If the Fire Department will be assisting in the burn on your property you will receive short notice of when conditions are right for burning and personnel are available.

If you or your contractor will be burning the site without fire department assistance

You will need to notify the Fire Department of the proposed date and time for the burn. The Fire Department will approve or disapprove that date and time. The Fire Department may cancel the burn at any time based on weather conditions. The Fire Department may choose to have a representative on site for the burn.

Preparation of Site:

To be completed by November 1 if it is to be burned with Fire Department assistance.

Cut the Phragmites that is to be burned. In some cases where the area to be burned is well isolated from other stands of Phragmites the Fire Department might allow the Phragmites to be burned while standing.

Firebreaks as required by the Fire Department will be needed. In the firebreak area the Phragmites should be cut as close as possible to the ground and raked into the burn area. Open water or non-Phragmites areas may serve as firebreaks as determined by the Fire Department.

DEQ Permit:

In some locations within Clay Township a permit is required from the DEQ in order to cut Phragmites, even when cutting it in preparation for burning. Obtaining this permit, if required, is the responsibility of the property owner.

Follow up:

After the burn is completed the property owner should report the burn to the Clay Township Phragmites Advisory Board by calling 810-519-2985.