



Mille Lacs Lake Watershed
Management Group

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TOPIC OF THE MONTH - July 2016

The Bad Effects Of Burning

Spring, summer, & fall - are all great times to get outdoors. Going to the cabin, camping, fishing, and hiking are things we like to do as the weather warms up. This type of activity leads to cooking over open fires at the cabin, fishing sites, hiking rest stops, and camping sites. Many of us like to have that little fire to relax near while we cook hot dogs, roast marshmallow and etc.



The problem comes when we try to dispose of the waste of plastic products in the fire, like water bottles, sandwich bags, and more.

We need to think about what we are doing when we are burning such things as plastics and rubber products. These products release carcinogen dioxin and other toxic compounds into the air, soil, and water. The ashes from the fire release toxins that harm human health, as well as wildlife habitat.

Another thing that has a negative effect on our environment is burning barrels. These barrels often end up burning paper products as well as garbage. These household & cabin wastes are a major source of pollution, known as dioxins. It is illegal to use burning barrels and fire pits to dispose of garbage in the State of Minnesota. Garbage burning is the largest source of human caused dioxin emissions. A simple impact to environment to eliminate!

A wood-fueled campfire is great - provided it is in a ring no more than 3 feet in diameter and the flames reach no more than 3 feet in height. In addition, 5 feet around the fire must be cleared of combustible material. The only type of household waste that's legal to burn is clean, unpainted, untreated wood scraps and small tree branches.

Enjoy the summer in Minnesota - But please remember to care for the environment at the same time!

