

Have you ever wondered how many backyard fires occur in London per year?

> What's your best guess, and how do you come up with that number?

> To be sure its a difficult thing to quantify with any real precision.

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> But if London has roughly 100,000 "backyards" where the practice can

> take place, and there are a say a potential of 180 days per year to

> have a fire,

> 18,000,000 is a hypothetically astounding number.

> Thankfully, not everyone burns and not every day, but a lot do.

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> Here's a more reasonable way to arrive at an estimate.

> Barrie, Ontario population about 141,000. has a "permit" system for back yard fires (something I strongly oppose).

> In 2014, they issued 3,447 permits for outdoor burning.

> To get an idea how many backyard fires occur in London population

> 366,000, that would project to be 9,030 permits issued in London (a terrible idea)

Yikes, thats about 1 in every 11 properties.

> Doesn't leave a lot of space or elbow room for refuge.

> (Of course, many will not go to the effort or pay for such a permit, but lets assume everyone does).

> Assume that if they put in the effort and pay for a permit, that they will have one fire a month during the "six month season".

> From my experience that is a low ball estimate, as many of my neighbours have very regular fires, ie. 2 or 3 times a week.

> But for sake of a rough, rough estimate multiply 9,030 permits times 6 backyard fires per year - equals 54,180 back yard fires in London.

> Each one is a serious pollution hot spot. Science proves that beyond a shadow of a doubt.

> That's just in terms of particulate matter (PM), never mind the rest of the carcinogenic chemical cocktail that wood smoke generates.

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> Why? So someone has the freedom to sit outside in a t-shirt, instead of wearing a sweater and or jacket?

> Try explaining that to the mother of an asthmatic child, or a man who

> doesn't want to die prematurely of lung disease, or the chemically sensitive woman whose life has now become a living hell, because there is simply no escape from this "allowable" air pollution permeating their neighbourhood. The same pollution that our city "permits".

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> Point being, there are far more back yard fires happening in London than most of us can really imagine.

> And the damage being done (the human and environmental toll) is far beyond our wildest imaginations.

> As a city, we can no longer downplay what has become the normalization of a dangerous practice that affects the health and environment of countless people.