

**AMHERST HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
WOOD BURNING OPERATOR'S EXAMINATION**

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The following questions are either TRUE/FALSE or MULTIPLE CHOICE. Please answer accordingly.

1. Green unseasoned wood provides less heat and causes more creosote formation than dry seasoned wood.

\_\_\_\_\_ TRUE \_\_\_\_\_ FALSE

2. Most wood should be cut for approximately one year to be considered dry, seasoned wood.

\_\_\_\_\_ TRUE \_\_\_\_\_ FALSE

3. It makes sense to burn each load of wood briskly at approximately 500-600 degrees for the first 20-30 minutes to drive off moisture and reduce creosote.

\_\_\_\_\_ TRUE \_\_\_\_\_ FALSE

4. A wood burning device operates more efficiently and more economically with:

\_\_\_\_\_ a) small, hot fires

\_\_\_\_\_ b) large, cooler fires

5. Which of the following happens when the damper is turned down and air flow to the fire is reduced?

\_\_\_\_\_ a) air pollution is reduced because the air flow is less.

\_\_\_\_\_ b) air pollution is increased because the air supply is reduced and unburned gases in the firebox escape up the chimney.

6. Inefficient combustion of gases increases chemical emissions and creosote in the chimney.

\_\_\_\_\_ TRUE \_\_\_\_\_ FALSE

7. After start-up, the temperature of the flue gases exiting a wood burning device should be within the range of 300 - 400 degrees, as measured by the stove's flue pipe thermometer placed on the flue pipe.

\_\_\_\_ TRUE \_\_\_\_ FALSE

8. When loading a wood burning device, emission of pollutants into the home can be reduced by:

\_\_\_\_ a) opening the flue dampers

\_\_\_\_ b) closing the flue dampers

9. Household and other trash may produce harmful chemical emissions when burned.

\_\_\_\_ TRUE \_\_\_\_ FALSE

10. Will burning wood in damp foggy weather generally increase or decrease noticeable pollution?

\_\_\_\_ a) increase

\_\_\_\_ b) decrease

11. To properly maintain safety, the flue from a wood burning device should be inspected and/or cleaned at least once a year.

\_\_\_\_ TRUE \_\_\_\_ FALSE

12. Three major causes of stove inefficiency and increased air pollution are:

\_\_\_\_ insufficient oxygen

\_\_\_\_ low firebox temperature

\_\_\_\_ high firebox temperature

\_\_\_\_ using a stove too large for the space to be heated

13. Certain organic ingredients in wood smoke, such as polycyclic organic material (POMs) are considered dangerous because of the potential cancer-causing substances.

\_\_\_\_ TRUE \_\_\_\_ FALSE

14. Efficient combustion of gases occurs when the chimney shows little or no visible smoke.

\_\_\_\_ TRUE \_\_\_\_ FALSE

Thank you for doing your part to reduce air pollution in Amherst!

**Please Return To:** Amherst Health Department  
70 Boltwood Walk  
Amherst, MA 01002