



Frequently Asked Questions Open Burning Ordinance

DEFINITIONS:

What open burning?

Open burning is defined as a fire where any material is burned on the ground or in an open receptacle other than a furnace, incinerator, or other equipment connected to a stack or chimney. It also includes campfires.

What is an approved container?

An approved container includes a non-combustible barrel with lid or cover to suppress sparks; an outdoor fireplace; a portable outdoor fireplace used to follow the manufacturer's instructions; or a below-grade enclosure.

What is a portable outdoor fireplace?

A portable outdoor fireplace is a movable, outdoor, solid-fuel burning fireplace that may be constructed of steel, concrete, clay, or other non-combustible material. A portable outdoor fireplace may be open in design or equipped with a small hearth opening and a short chimney opening in the top.

What is a recreational fire?

A recreational fire is an outdoor fire for burning materials where the fuel being burned is not contained in an outdoor fireplace, portable outdoor fireplace, barbecue grill, or barbecue pit. The total fuel area is three feet or less in diameter and two feet or less in height. Recreational fires are typically for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.

What is a bonfire?

A bonfire is a large outdoor fire used for celebrations, typically associated with crowd activity. The size of a bonfire may not be larger than six feet in height and six feet in width.

What is considered a nuisance?

Burning that will be offensive due to smoke, odor, fire debris (including embers, sparks, or ash), or when weather situations (high winds greater than 10 mph, prolonged drought) make such fires hazardous.

OPEN BURNING:

What do I need to do before I burn?

All residents MUST call the burn hotline at (248) 693-1838 before burning. A pre-recorded message will tell you if you can burn for the day, if there are restrictions, or if a burn ban has been issued by the Fire Department. Burn bans are usually issued due to weather conditions or extenuating circumstances.

Who should be in attendance while burning?

A capable adult must always be attending to the open burning; an open burning fire is never to be left unattended.



Charter Township of Orion

2525 Joslyn Rd., Lake Orion MI 48360
www.oriontownship.org

Fire Department

Phone: (248) 391-0304, ext. 2000

Fax: (248) 309-6993

What do I need to have available if I am planning to burn?

A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher (rated to extinguish combustible materials), dirt, sand, a five-gallon bucket of water, or a functioning garden hose must be available for immediate use to extinguish the open burning operation.

What is the distance away from a structure that I can open burn?

- Recreational fires must be 25 feet away from a structure, other combustible materials, and lot of lines.
- Bonfires must be 50 feet away from structures, other combustible materials, and lot lines.

What can I burn?

You may burn natural wood material, including dry, seasoned tree trunks, branches, limbs, and sawn non-treated/unfinished lumber. A small amount of paper products, including cardboard, wood kindling, or commercially available fire starters may be used to aid in the ignition of an open flame.

What can't I burn?

Burning of the following is prohibited:

- Waste material from residential and business operations, including all hazardous waste
- Construction or demolition debris
- Large volumes of paper product/cardboard
- Ground covering or vegetation including leaves and grass
- Ignitable liquids including gasoline
- Treated lumber
- Explosive/combustible materials

ENFORCEMENT:

Who can tell me I have to stop burning?

If the Fire Department receives any complaints, a Fire Department representative has the authority to inspect the fire at issue. When open burning creates or adds to a hazardous situation, becomes a nuisance, or is not compliant with the Township ordinance, a Fire Department Representative is authorized to order the extinguishment of the open burning operation.

Can I be issued a ticket for open burning?

If, while open burning, a capable adult is not compliant with the Township ordinance, the Fire Department representative has the authority to issue a township or municipal civil infraction ticket at his or her discretion. This authority is granted to the Fire Department by Township ordinance, adoption of the International Fire Code, and MCL 600.101, *et seq.*: MSA 27A.101, *et seq.*, as amended, and shall pay a civil fine as prescribed by ordinance or as determined by the district court.

What is the cost of an open burning ticket?

The cost of an open burning ticket may range from \$9.00 to \$500.00.