

Open Burning Permit Guidance

Open Burning Permits are required for any type of outdoor burning that is not contained in an approved container or barrel.

An open burn permit is NOT required for the following:

- Burning in an approved barrel or waste burner
- Recreational fires (as defined under Recreational Fires)

Obtaining an Open Burn Permit is done by contacting the Fire Chief by phone at 269-720-2118. When prompted leave your name, address, and contact number. You will be contacted within a half hour if the permit is going to be denied. If you do not receive a follow up call the permit is approved.

Permits are based on several requirements including favorable weather conditions and lot size. You can only open burn from sunrise to sunset and burning is only restricted to leaves, brush, tree limbs, stumps, and lumber. Burning garbage, paper products, building materials other than lumber, plastics, rubber products, and grass clippings is specifically prohibited.

Recreational Fires: Recreational fires do not require a permit as long as the fire is contained in a fire or barbecue pit,

- Not to exceed three feet in diameter and not to exceed two feet in height.
- All recreational fires must be 25 feet from any building, property line or other combustible material.
- Waste matter which causes a dense smoke or odor to go onto adjacent property may not be burned under permit or otherwise.

Burning Barrels and Waste Burners: No permit is required for burning in a burn barrel or waste burner if it complies with the following rules:

- Burning barrels and waste burners are to be constructed of a non-combustible metal or masonry container, not to exceed a capacity of 55 gallons.
- Containers must be in good condition with holes or openings on the sides not to exceed ½ square inch. All containers must have a cover or spark arrester on top with holes no larger than ½ square inch.
- Burn barrels and waste burners must be kept 15 feet from any building, public roadway, property line or other combustibles.
- Only paper products, leaves, brush, tree limbs, stumps or lumber may be burned in these containers.
- Burning of grass clippings, garbage, building materials other than lumber, plastics and rubber products are specifically prohibited.

In addition, the Fire Chief and/ or his/ her authorized representative may require the fire to be discontinued if he/ she determines that the smoke from the fire is reasonably offensive to persons on surrounding property or that the fire constitutes a hazardous condition.