

## **Ross Twp Fire Department – Open Burn Guidelines**

This guideline is designed to help the Ross Twp Fire Department Officer or Senior Firefighter in answering the public's questions pertaining to Ohio law regarding Open Burning

### **3745-19-01 - Definitions**

(A) "Agricultural waste" means any waste material generated by crop, horticultural, or livestock production practices, and includes such items as woody debris and plant matter from stream flooding, bags, cartons, structural materials, and landscape wastes that are generated in agricultural activities, but does not include land clearing waste; buildings; garbage; dead animals; animal waste; motor vehicles and parts thereof; nor economic poisons and containers thereof, unless the manufacturer has identified open burning as a safe disposal procedure.

(B) "Economic poisons" include but are not restricted to pesticides such as insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides, miticides, nematocides and fumigants; herbicides; seed disinfectants; and defoliants.

(C) "Emergency burning" means the burning of clean wood waste or deceased animals caused by a natural disaster or an uncontrolled event such as the following:

(D) "Garbage" means any waste material resulting from the handling, processing, preparation, cooking and consumption of food or food products.

(E) "Landscape waste" means any plant waste material, except garbage, including trees, tree trimmings, branches, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery, yard trimmings, and crop residues.

(F) "Land clearing waste" means plant waste material which is removed from land, including plant waste material removed from stream banks during projects involving more than one property owner, for the purpose of rendering the land useful for residential, commercial, or industrial development. Land clearing waste also includes the plant waste material generated during the clearing of land for new agricultural development.

(H) "Open burning" means the burning of any materials wherein air contaminants resulting from combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney. Open burning includes the burning of any refuse or salvageable material in any device not subject to or designed specifically to comply with the requirements of rule 3745-17-09 or 3745-17-10 of the Administrative Code.

(I) "Residential waste" means any waste material, including landscape wastes, generated on a one-, two- or three-family residence as a result of residential activities, but not including garbage.

(J) "Restricted area" means the following: **Example would be the Village of Millville**

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (I)(2) of this rule, the area within the boundary of any municipal corporation established in accordance with the provisions of Title 7 of the Revised Code, plus a zone extending one thousand feet beyond the boundaries of any such municipal corporation having a population of one thousand to ten thousand persons and a zone extending one mile beyond any such municipal corporation having a population of ten thousand persons or more according to the latest federal census.

(2) "Restricted area" shall not include any municipal corporation the territory of which is located on an island in Lake Erie except that, during the yearly period between Memorial Day and Labor Day, any such municipal corporation shall be required to comply with the requirements of rule 3745-19-03 of the Administrative Code.

(K) "Unrestricted area" means all areas outside the boundaries of a restricted area as defined in paragraph (I) of this rule. **Example would be Ross Township**

### **3745-19-03 Open burning in restricted areas. (Millville)**

(A) No person or property owner shall cause or allow open burning in a restricted area except as provided in paragraphs (B) to (D) of this rule or in section [3704.11](#) of the Revised Code.

(B) Open burning **shall be allowed** for the following purposes without notification to or permission from the Ohio EPA:

(1) Heating tar, welding, acetylene torches, highway safety flares, heating for warmth of outdoor workers and strikers, smudge pots and similar occupational needs.

(2) Bonfires, campfires and **outdoor fireplace equipment**, whether for cooking food for human consumption, pleasure, religious, ceremonial, warmth, recreational, or similar purposes, if the following conditions are met:

(a) They are fueled with clean seasoned firewood, natural gas or equivalent, or any clean burning fuel with emissions that are equivalent to or lower than those created from the burning of seasoned firewood;

(b) They are not used for waste disposal purposes; and

(c) **They shall have a total fuel area of three feet or less in diameter and two feet or less in height.**

(3) Disposal of hazardous explosive materials, military munitions or explosive devices that require immediate action to prevent endangerment of human health, public safety, property or the environment and that are excluded from the requirement to obtain a hazardous waste permit pursuant to paragraph (D)(1)(d) of rule 3745-50-45 of the Administrative Code.

(4) Recognized training in the use of fire extinguishers for commercial or industrial fire prevention.

Fires allowed by paragraphs (B)(1), (B)(2), and (B)(4) of this rule **shall not be used for waste disposal purposes** and shall be of minimum size sufficient for their intended purpose; the fuel shall be chosen to minimize the generation and emission of air contaminants.

(C) Open burning shall be allowed for the following purposes **with prior notification to the Ohio EPA** in accordance with paragraph (B) of rule 3745-19-05 of the Administrative Code:

(1) Prevention or control of disease or pests, with written or verbal verification to the Ohio EPA from the local health department, cooperative extension service, Ohio department of agriculture, or U.S. department of agriculture, that open burning is the only appropriate disposal method.

(2) Bonfires or campfires used for ceremonial purposes that do not meet the requirements of paragraph (B)(2) of this rule, provided the following conditions are met:

(a) They have a total fuel area no greater than five feet in diameter by five feet in height and burn no longer than three hours;

(b) They are not be used for waste disposal purposes; and

(c) They are fueled with clean seasoned firewood, natural gas or equivalent, or any clean burning fuel with emissions that are equivalent to or lower than those created from the burning of seasoned firewood.

(3) Disposal of agricultural waste generated on the premises if the following conditions are observed:

(a) The fire is set only when atmospheric conditions will readily dissipate contaminants;

(b) The fire does not create a visibility hazard on the roadways, railroad tracks, or air fields;

(c) The fire is located at a point on the premises no less than one thousand feet from any inhabited building not located on said premises;

(d) The wastes are stacked and dried to provide the best practicable condition for efficient burning; and

(e) No materials are burned which contain rubber, grease, asphalt or liquid petroleum products.

#### **3745-19-04 Open burning in unrestricted areas. (Ross Twp)**

(A) No person or property owner shall cause or allow open burning in an unrestricted area except as provided in paragraphs (B) to (C) of this rule or in section [3704.11](#) of the Revised Code.

(B) Open burning ***shall be allowed*** for the following purposes without notification to or permission from the Ohio EPA:

(1) Heating tar, welding, acetylene torches, highway safety flares, heating for warmth of outdoor workers and strikers, smudge pots and similar occupational needs.

(2) Bonfires, campfires and ***outdoor fireplace equipment***, whether for cooking food for human consumption, pleasure, religious, ceremonial, warmth, recreational, or similar purposes, if the following conditions are met:

(a) They are fueled with clean seasoned firewood, natural gas or equivalent, or any clean burning fuel with emissions that are equivalent to or lower than those created from the burning of seasoned firewood;

(b) They are not used for waste disposal purposes; and

(c) They shall have a total fuel area of ***three feet or less in diameter and two feet or less in height*** except when such fire is used for ceremonial purposes it may have a total fuel area no greater than five feet in diameter and five feet in height if the ceremonial fire burns no longer than three hours.

(3) Disposal of residential waste or agricultural waste generated on the premises if the following conditions are observed:

- (a) The fire is set only when atmospheric conditions will readily dissipate contaminants;
- (b) The fire does not create a visibility hazard on the roadways, railroad tracks, or air fields;

(c) **The fire is located at a point on the premises no less than one thousand feet from any inhabited building not located on said premises;**

(d) The wastes are stacked and dried to provide the best practicable condition for efficient burning; and

(e) No materials are burned which contain rubber, grease, asphalt or liquid petroleum products.

(4) Ceremonial purposes, if the following conditions are met:

(C) **Open burning shall be allowed for the following purposes upon receipt of written permission from the Ohio EPA,** in accordance with paragraph (A) of rule 3745-19-05 of the Administrative Code, provided that any conditions specified in the permission are followed:

(1) Disposal of ignitable or explosive materials where the Ohio EPA determines that there is no practical alternate method of disposal, excluding those materials identified in paragraph (B)(4) of this rule;

(2) Instruction in methods of fire fighting or for research in the control of fire as recognized by the State fire marshal division of the Ohio department of commerce and the guidelines set forth in the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) publication 1403: "Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions, Chapter 4, Acquired Structures", provided that the application required in paragraph (A)(1) of rule 3745-19-05 is submitted by the commercial or public entity responsible for the instruction;

(3) In emergency or other extraordinary circumstances for any purpose determined to be necessary by the Ohio EPA director and performed as identified in the appendix of rule 3745-19-03 of the Administrative Code. If deemed necessary, the open burning may be authorized with prior oral approval by the director followed by the issuance of a written permission to open burn within seven working days of the oral approval;

(4) Disposal of land clearing waste generated on the premises if the following conditions are observed:

- (a) The fire is set only when atmospheric conditions will readily dissipate contaminants;
- (b) The fire does not create a visibility hazard on roadways, railroad tracks, or air fields;
- (c) The fire is located at a point on the premises no less than one thousand feet from any inhabited building not located on said premises; and

(d) An air curtain destructor or other device or method determined by the director to be at least as effective is used to curtail release of air contaminants;

(5) Recognized horticultural, silvicultural, range, or wildlife management practices; and

(6) Fires and/or pyrotechnic effects, for purposes other than waste disposal, set as part of commercial film-making or video production activities for motion pictures and television.

(D) Open burning shall be allowed for the prevention or control of disease or pests with written or verbal verification to the Ohio EPA from the local health department, cooperative extension service, Ohio department of agriculture, or U.S. department of agriculture, that open burning is the only appropriate disposal method.

### **Sections of 1301:7-7-03 General precautions against fire.**

#### **(A) Section 301 General**

(1) 301.1 Scope. The provisions of this rule shall govern the occupancy and maintenance of all structures and premises for precautions against fire and the spread of fire.

(2) 301.2 Permits. Permits shall be required as set forth in rule 1301:7-7-01 of the Administrative Code for the activities or uses regulated by paragraphs (F)(306), (G)(307), (H)(3)(308.3), (H)(4)(308.4), (H)(5)(308.5) and (O)(315) of this rule.

#### **(B) Section 302 Definitions**

(1) 302.1 Definitions. The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this rule and as used elsewhere in this code, have the meanings shown herein.

"Bonfire." An outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes.

"Open Burning." The burning of materials wherein products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber. Open burning does not include road flares, smudgepots and similar devices associated with safety or occupational uses typically considered open flames or recreational fires. For the purpose of this definition, a chamber shall be regarded as enclosed when, during the time combustion occurs, only apertures, ducts, stacks, flues or chimneys necessary to provide combustion air and permit the escape of exhaust gas are open.

"Recreational fire." An outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, barbecue grill or barbecue pit and has a total fuel area of 3 feet (914 mm) or less in diameter and 2 feet (610 mm) or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.

#### **(E) Section 305 Ignition sources**

(1) 305.1 Clearance from ignition sources. Clearance between ignition sources, such as luminaires, heaters, flame-producing devices, and combustible materials shall be maintained in an approved manner.

(2) 305.2 Hot ashes and spontaneous ignition sources. Hot ashes, cinders, smoldering coals or greasy or oily materials subject to spontaneous ignition shall not be deposited in a combustible receptacle, within 10 feet (3048 mm) of other combustible material including combustible walls and partitions or within 2 feet (610 mm) of openings to buildings.

*Exception:* The minimum required separation distance to other combustible materials shall be 2 feet (610 mm) where the material is deposited in a covered, noncombustible receptacle placed on a noncombustible floor, ground surface or stand.

(4) 305.4 Deliberate or negligent burning. It shall be unlawful to deliberately or through negligence set fire to or cause the burning of combustible material in such a manner as to endanger the safety of persons or property.

(G) Section 307 Open burning and recreational fires

(1) 307.1 General. A person shall not kindle or maintain or authorize to be kindled or maintained any open burning unless conducted and approved in accordance with this paragraph.

(a) 307.1.1 Prohibited open burning. Open burning that is offensive or objectionable because of smoke or odor emissions or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited.

(2) 307.2 Permit required. A permit shall be obtained from the fire code official in accordance with rule 1301:7-7-01 of the Administrative Code prior to kindling a fire for recognized silvicultural or range or wildlife management practices, prevention or control of disease or pests, or a bonfire. Application for such approval shall only be presented by and permits issued to the owner of the land upon which the fire is to be kindled.

(a) 307.2.1 Authorization. Where required by state or local law or regulations, open burning shall only be permitted with prior approval from the state or local air and water quality management authority, provided that all conditions specified in the authorization are followed.

(3) 307.3 Extinguishment authority. The fire code official is authorized to order the extinguishment by the permit holder, another person responsible or the fire department of open burning that creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation.

(4) 307.4 Location. The location for open burning shall not be less than 50 feet (15 240 mm) from any structure, and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 50 feet (15 240 mm) of any structure.

Exceptions:

1. Fires in approved containers that are not less than 15 feet (4572 mm) from a structure.

2. The minimum required distance from a structure shall be 25 feet (7620 mm) where the pile size is 3 feet (914 mm) or less in diameter and 2 feet (610 mm) or less in height.

(a) 307.4.1 Bonfires. A bonfire shall not be conducted within 50 feet (15 240 mm) of a structure or combustible material unless the fire is contained in a barbecue pit. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 50 feet (15 240 mm) of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

(b) 307.4.2 Recreational fires. Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet (7620 mm) of a structure or combustible material. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet (7620 mm) of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

(5) 307.5 Attendance. Open burning, bonfires or recreational fires shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher complying with paragraph (F)(906) of rule 1301:7-7-09 of the Administrative Code with a minimum 4-A rating

or other approved on-site fire- extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck, shall be available for immediate utilization.

(H) Section 308 Open flames

(1) 308.1 General. This paragraph shall control open flames, fire and burning on all premises.

(2) 308.2 Where prohibited. A person shall not take or utilize an open flame or light in a structure, vessel, boat or other place where highly flammable, combustible or explosive material is utilized or stored. Lighting appliances shall be well-secured in a glass globe and wire mesh cage or a similar approved device.

(a) 308.2.1 Throwing or placing sources of ignition. No person shall throw or place, or cause to be thrown or placed, a lighted match, cigar, cigarette, matches, or other flaming or glowing substance or object on any surface or article where it can cause an unwanted fire.

(3) 308.3 Open flame. A person shall not utilize or allow to be utilized, an open flame in connection with a public meeting or gathering for purposes of deliberation, worship, entertainment, amusement, instruction, education, recreation, awaiting transportation or similar purpose in Group A or E occupancies without first obtaining a permit in accordance with rule 1301:7-7-01 of the Administrative Code.

(a) 308.3.1 Open flame cooking devices. Charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within 10 feet (3048 mm) of combustible construction.

Exceptions:

1. One- and two-family dwellings.
2. Where buildings, balconies and decks are protected by an automatic sprinkler system.
3. Where approved by the fire code official, charcoal burners are allowed to be operated on combustible balconies or within 10 feet (3048 mm) of combustible construction where all of the following conditions are met:
  - 3.1 The charcoal burners are attended by an adult at all times when in operation.
  - 3.2 Portable fire extinguishers in the type, quantity and size as approved by the fire code official are present on the combustible balconies or at the cooking site located within 10 feet of combustible construction. Such portable fire extinguishers shall be in an operable condition at all times and maintained in accordance with NFPA 10 as listed in rule 1301:7-7-45 of the Administrative Code.
  - 3.3 All non-structural combustible material must be removed from the combustible balconies or at the cooking site located within 10 feet of combustible construction.
- (i) 308.3.1.1 Liquefied-petroleum-gas-fueled cooking devices. LP-gas burners having an LP-gas container with a water capacity greater than 2.5 pounds [nominal 1 pound (0.454 kg) LP-gas capacity] shall not be located on combustible balconies or within 10 feet (3048 mm) of combustible construction.

*Exception:* One- and two-family dwellings.

(b) 308.3.2 Open-flame decorative devices. Open-flame decorative devices shall comply with all of the following restrictions:

(i) Class I and Class II liquids and LP-gas shall not be used.

(ii) Liquid- or solid-fueled lighting devices containing more than 8 ounces (237 ml) of fuel must self-extinguish and not leak fuel at a rate of more than 0.25 teaspoon per minute (1.26 ml per minute) if tipped over.

(iii) The device or holder shall be constructed to prevent the spillage of liquid fuel or wax at the rate of more than 0.25 teaspoon per minute (1.26 ml per minute) when the device or holder is not in an upright position.

(iv) The device or holder shall be designed so that it will return to the upright position after being tilted to an angle of 45 degrees from vertical.

*Exception:* Devices that self-extinguish if tipped over and do not spill fuel or wax at the rate of more than 0.25 teaspoon per minute (1.26 ml per minute) if tipped over.

(v) The flame shall be enclosed except where openings on the side are not more than 0.375 inch (9.5 mm) diameter or where openings are on the top and the distance to the top is such that a piece of tissue paper placed on the top will not ignite in 10 seconds.

(vi) Chimneys shall be made of noncombustible materials and securely attached to the open-flame device.

*Exception:* A chimney is not required to be attached to any open-flame device that will self-extinguish if the device is tipped over.

(vii) Fuel canisters shall be safely sealed for storage.

(viii) Storage and handling of combustible liquids shall be in accordance with rule 1301:7-7-34 of the Administrative Code.

(ix) Shades, where used, shall be made of noncombustible materials and securely attached to the open-flame device holder or chimney.

(x) Candelabras with flame-lighted candles shall be securely fastened in place to prevent overturning, and shall be located away from occupants using the area and away from possible contact with drapes, curtains or other combustibles.

(c) 308.3.3 Location near combustibles. Open flames such as from candles, lanterns, kerosene heaters, and gas-fired heaters shall not be located on or near decorative material or similar combustible materials.

(d) 308.3.4 Aisles and exits. Candles shall be prohibited in areas where occupants stand, or in an aisle or exit.