

OPEN BURNING RESPONSES

PURPOSE

To use all applicable laws and guidelines to establish a standard guideline to be followed on open burning responses.

APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all Tiffin Fire/Rescue personnel responding to open burning incidents.

DEFINITIONS

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 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. 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 Ohio Administrative Code 3745-17-09 or 3745-17-10.

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 (914mm) or less in diameter and 2 feet (610mm) or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.

RESTRICTED AREA - means the area within the boundary of any municipal corporation established in accordance with the provisions of Title 7 of the Ohio Revised Code, plus a zone extending 1,000 feet beyond the boundaries of any such municipal corporation having a population of 1,000 to 10,000 persons and a zone extending one mile beyond the boundaries of any such municipal corporation having a population of 10,000 persons or more according to the latest federal census.

BONFIRE - an outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes.

POLICY STATEMENT

Ohio Administrative Code (Ohio Fire Code) says, open burning does not include road flares, smudge pots and similar devices associated with safety or occupational uses typically considered open flames or recreational fires.

Ohio EPA says, open burning in restricted areas shall be allowed for the following purposes without notification to or permission from the Ohio EPA;

- (1) Cooking for human consumption (barbecues, campfires, cookouts)
- (2) Heating tar, welding, acetylene torches, highway safety flares, heating for warmth of outdoor workers and strikers, smudge pots and similar occupational needs.

City of Tiffin Codified Ordinances says, open burning in restricted areas shall be allowed for the following purposes without notification to or permission from the Ohio EPA;

- (1) Cooking for human consumption (barbecues, campfires, cookouts)
- (2) Heating tar, welding, acetylene torches, highway safety flares, heating for warmth of outdoor workers and strikers, smudge pots and similar occupational needs.

Tiffin Fire/Rescue Division's interpretation of the information listed above along with more from all three sources leads to the following policy.

POLICY

- A Open burning in restricted areas shall be allowed for the following purposes without notification to or permission from the Ohio EPA;
- (1) Cooking for human consumption (barbecues, campfires, cookouts)
 - (2) Heating tar, welding, acetylene torches, highway safety flares, heating for warmth of outdoor workers and strikers, smudge pots and similar occupational needs.
 - (3) Recreational fires
- B Cooking or recreational fires; shall not be conducted within 25 feet (7620mm) of a structure or combustible material. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet (7620mm) of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.
- C Cooking or recreational fires; shall not be used for waste disposal, shall be of minimum size sufficient for their intended purpose and shall have a total fuel area of 3 feet (914mm) or less in diameter and 2 feet (610mm) or less in height. The fuel shall be chosen to minimize the generation and emission of air contaminants.
- D Cooking 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.
- E Permit required; A permit shall be obtained from the EPA official in accordance with rule 3745-19-05 of the Administrative Code prior to kindling a fire for recognized silvicultural or range or wildlife management practices, prevention or disease or pest control. 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.

- F A bonfire (ceremonial fire); A permit shall be obtained from the fire code official of the Tiffin Fire/Rescue Division. in accordance with rule 1301:7-7-01 of the Administrative Code prior to kindling a ceremonial fire. Ceremonial fires shall not be conducted within 50 feet (15240 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 (15240mm) of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition. The ceremonial fire shall be less than five feet by five feet in dimension and shall burn no longer than three hours. The ceremonial fire shall not be used for waste disposal purposes and the fuel shall be chosen so as to minimize the generation and emission of air contaminants.
- G Prohibited open burning; open burning that will be offensive or objectionable because of smoke or odor emissions when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited. The fire code official is authorized to order the extinguishment by the permit holder or the fire department of open burning which creates or adds to hazardous or objectionable situation.

REFERENCES;

Ohio Administrative code: 1301:7-7-03 (Ohio Fire Code)

Ohio Administrative code: 3745-19-03 (EPA Code)

City of Tiffin Codified Ordinances: 1511.03 & 1511.04

and Ohio EPA internet site:

(<http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dapc/general//openburning.html>)