

RE: OPEN BURNING DEFINITIONS

The Ohio Fire Code provides the following definitions regarding the control of open flames, fire and burning on all premises:

**General** – A person shall not cause or allow open burning unless approved in a accordance with the Ohio Fire Code. OFC 307.1.

**Open Burning** – The burning of any materials wherein the products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber. For purposes 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 air and permit the exhaust gas are open. OFC 302.1.

- **Approval Requirement** – It is necessary to first obtain approval and a permit from the code official in order to allow open burning for:
  1. Recognized silviculture, range or wildlife management practices;
  2. Prevention or control of disease or pests;
  3. Providing heat for outdoor workers;
  4. **Bonfires** – an outdoor fire used for ceremonial purposes;  
OFC 307.2.1, 307.3.1.
  
- **Allowable Burning** – Open burning is permitted without prior notification or approval from the code official for:
  1. Highway safety flares, smudge pots and similar occupational needs;
  2. **Recreational Fires** – 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 area of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes. All recreational fires must be a minimum of 25 feet from structures at all times.  
OFC 302.1, 307.3.2.
  
- **Prohibited open burning** – Open burning that is 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 of open burning which creates or adds to a hazardous objectionable situation. OFC 307.2.2.

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