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## Outdoor burning rules get update

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**LAKESWOOD** — City Council is tightening up regulations for outdoor burning.

The new chapter of the Fire Prevention Code outlines the requirements for grilling, fire pits, barbecues, bonfires and outdoor burning due in part to an increase in complaints and requests for information regarding outdoor fires in the city.

“I really do think it’s a model for growing issues in nearby communities,” said Councilman at large Brian Powers, chair of the Public Safety Committee. “It’s a more realistic approach to the situation. I think that there are some improvements to the current state of the law.”

Under the old regulations, any kind of fire must be at least 15 feet from a public right of way, such as a sidewalk, unless it

being used for cooking. Portable or outdoor grills are also banned from multi-family residential units, balconies and areas within 10 feet of any structure housing more than three families.

The new laws are much more extensive. The new code retains the old rules, but adds that open burning in an approved container is allowed, as long as it is not within more than 25 feet of another

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### RULES

From A1

building or within more than 15 feet of a public right-of-way. It also requires the property owner’s permission and the presence of a responsible adult.

Included in the legislation are requirements for fire pits, barbecue pits, smudge pots as well as a ban on burning trash. Special permits are available for burning beach debris, preventing or controlling diseases or pests and ceremonial bonfires.

The fire chief or his or her designee now has the right to extinguish fires emitting bad odors or too much smoke, or when conditions are hazardous.

Those who do not comply with the new rules will be issued a hazard correction notice for the first offense, followed by a citation for a second offense.

“We’re going to keep a database,” said Fire Chief Lawrence Mroz. “For the first violation, we would flag that on the records.”