

# Wentzville Fire Protection District

209 West Pearce Boulevard — Wentzville, Missouri 63385  
Office: (636) 327-6239 — Fax: (636) 639-1364  
www.wentzvillefire.org



## Policy Manual Part I-2 Open Burning Permits

**Purpose:** To establish policy regarding the issuance of permits to conduct open burning that complies with Fire District Ordinance #39 and the regulations established by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

**Scope:** This policy applies to all member of the District including its career and reserve members.

**Enforcement:** Enforcement of this policy is the responsibility of the supervisors, officers, and acting officers of the District. Violations of this policy are offenses punishable under the Progressive Discipline Policy.

**Note:** The provisions of this policy shall become effective 1 January 2009.

### 1. General

**1.1** The issuing of permits for open burning in compliance with Fire District Ordinance #39 and the Missouri Code of State Regulations is limited to the period beginning September 16 of each year and ending April 14 the following year.

**1.2** No permits for open burning shall be issued for any location located within the corporate limits of any village, town, or city.

**Exception:** Bonfire permits may be issued within a corporate limit with the approval of the Fire Chief or Fire Marshal.

**1.2.1** Prior to issuing a permit for open burning, the person issuing the permit for open burning shall confirm the property for which the permit is to be issued is outside a corporate limit with the St. Charles County Assessor's Office. No deviations from the determination of the Assessor's Office will be permitted.

**1.3** There shall be no cost for issuing open burning permits to residents of the Fire District.

**1.4** Permits to conduct open burning must be picked up and signed for by the requesting person. A contact number shall be verified at that time and entered on the original permit. **No email or faxed permits shall be permitted.**

**1.5** A copy of *Open Burning Regulations for the Wentzville Fire Protection District* (attached below) shall be issued with the permit to the person signing for the permit for open burning.

**1.6** Permits to conduct open burning shall be valid for a period not greater than 30 days.

**1.7** No permit will be considered valid unless the provisions of Fire District #39 and the Missouri Code of State Regulations are fully complied with.

**1.8** Land clearing operations and open burning at solid waste disposal facilities in possession of an open burning permit from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources shall be considered as possessing a permit to conduct open burning from the District.

**1.9** Permits to conduct open burning and bonfires shall be issued with Permit as attached to this document.

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## Open Burning Regulations for the Wentzville Fire Protection District

### General

In all cases, the burning of trash or refuse is prohibited by the Missouri Code of State Regulations in all areas of Saint Charles County, Missouri (10 CSR 10-5.070(3)(A)).

The burning of any debris (including leaves) is prohibited by the Missouri Code of State Regulations within incorporated areas including areas within the corporate limits of Dardenne Prairie, Flint Hill, Foristell, O'Fallon, Lake St. Louis, Josephville, and Wentzville (10 CSR 10-5.070(1)(A)).

No open burning may be conducted when the average wind speed exceeds 7 mile per hour or when a fire officer, fire marshal, or other District official determines the current and/or forecasted weather conditions are unsafe to conduct open burning (Ordinance #39, Section 307.2.2). Persons who have made notification that they are conducting open burning shall be notified to inform them of the temporary prohibition on open burning until weather conditions improve. **Exception:** Agricultural prescribed burning conducted for wildland management purposes by a governmental entity.

Burning material within a barrel is considered open burning and subject to the regulations listed herein (Ordinance #39, Section 307.1)

### Household burning of leaves, brush, etc. in unincorporated areas

The open burning of brush, leaves, etc. is limited to the period beginning September 16 and ending April 14 of each year (10 CSR 10-5.070(3)(B)).

The open burning of brush, leaves, etc. is limited to between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. each day (10 CSR 10-5.070(3)(D)).

Piled material to be burned under the above provisions may not exceed a base area of 16 square feet (10 CSR 10-5.070(3)(C)).

A permit to conduct open burning must be obtained from the Fire District (Ordinance #39, Section 307.2). The permit shall be valid for a period not to exceed 30 days. Persons conducting permitted open burning shall notify the District's administrative offices each day that open burning is to occur.

Open burning must be conducted a minimum of 50 feet from any structure (Ordinance #39, Section 307.3)

Any open burning must be constantly attended until the fire is completely extinguished. Fire extinguishing equipment (garden hose, fire extinguisher, dirt and shovel) must be readily available while open burning is being conducted (Ordinance #39, Section 307.4)

### **Recreational Open Burning (Bonfire) Permits**

No permits are required for outside recreational fires (a recreational fire is defined as a small outdoor fire used to cook food for human consumption which is less than three (3) feet in diameter and not more than two (2) feet in height) (Ordinance #39, Section 302.1)

No recreational fire may be conducted within 25 feet of a structure (Ordinance #39, Section 307.3.2)

A permit is required for a bonfire. This permit must be applied for, and obtained by, the owner of the land at which the bonfire is to occur. The permit is valid only for the day the permit is applied for (Ordinance #39, Section 307.2)

Fuel for a bonfire may only consist of seasoned, dry firewood. The fire may not be used for waste or debris disposal and the fuel shall be chosen to minimize the generation of airborne contaminants (Ordinance #39, Section 307.2.2)

A bonfire shall not be greater than five (5) feet by five (5) feet in dimension and may not burn for longer than three (3) hours. Variances to this requirement may only be granted by the Fire Chief (Ordinance #39, Section 307.2).

### **Land Clearing Operations or Open Burning at a Solid Waste Disposal Facility**

A permit to conduct these types of fires must be obtained from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (10 CSR 10-5.070(3)(H)).

The permitted operator must notify the District and provide proof of MoDNR authorization to conduct open burning (Ordinance #39, Section 307.2).

Burning must be conducted in an approved pit and use an air curtain destructor in accordance with the MoDNR permit to conduct open burning.

This type of burning may only be conducted between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Fires that create a public nuisance (e.g. smoke or ash complaints) may cause the district to revoke approval for open burning, which in turn invalidates the MoDNR permit under the provisions of 10 CSR 10-5.070(3)(H)(7).

A copy of the MoDNR permit must be retained on site while burning is occurring.

### **Prescribed Fires for Land/Crop Management**

A permit from the District is required to conduct prescribed fires for the purpose of natural resource management. **Exception:** No permit is required for governmental entities conducting prescribed burning (Ordinance #39, Section F-307.2).

A MoDNR permit is required for agricultural fires for weed and pest control when conducted between April 15 and September 15 (No MoDNR permit is required during the remainder of the year). A permit from the District is required at all times of the year (10 CSR 10-8.070(3)(E) and Ordinance #39, Section F-307.2)

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## PERMIT TO CONDUCT OPEN BURNING

Date

Name

Address at which burning is to occur

City, State, Zip

Contact Phone Number

In accordance with Ordinance #39, Section 207.2 of the Wentzville Fire Protection District of Saint Charles County, Missouri; permission to conduct open burning at \_\_\_\_\_ is hereby granted. This permit shall expire on \_\_\_\_\_ and is subject to the following restrictions and conditions:

- 1.) Your signature below signifies receipt of, and the agreement to comply with, the regulations defined in *Open Burning Regulations for the Wentzville Fire Protection District* (which is attached to this permit).
- 2.) This permit must be maintained on the site at which burning is occurring.
- 3.) The Wentzville Fire Protection District Administrative Offices must be notified each day before burning begins.
- 4.) This permit may be revoked at any time by either the District or the Missouri Department of Natural Resources at any time and for any reason.
- 5.) This permit in no ways relieves the recipient of their obligation to comply with City, County, State or Federal Law, Regulations, Statutes, or Ordinances.
- 6.) **In case of an emergency on the burning site – Call 911**

Permittee Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Fire District Official: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## PERMIT TO CONDUCT A RECREATIONAL BONFIRE

Date

Name

Address at which burning is to occur

City, State, Zip

Contact Phone Number

In accordance with Ordinance #39, Section 207.2 of the Wentzville Fire Protection District of Saint Charles County, Missouri; permission to conduct a recreational bonfire at \_\_\_\_\_ is hereby granted. This permit shall expire on \_\_\_\_\_ and is subject to the following restrictions and conditions:

- 1.) Your signature below signifies receipt of, and the agreement to comply with, the regulations defined in *Open Burning Regulations for the Wentzville Fire Protection District* (which is attached to this permit). The bon fire may be ignited anytime after 5:50 p.m. and must be extinguished not later than 1:00 a.m.
- 2.) This permit must be maintained on the site at which burning is occurring.
- 3.) The Wentzville Fire Protection District Administrative Offices must be notified each day before burning begins.
- 4.) This permit may be revoked at any time by either the District or the Missouri Department of Natural Resources at any time and for any reason.
- 5.) This permit in no ways relieves the recipient of their obligation to comply with City, County, State or Federal Law, Regulations, Statutes, or Ordinances.
- 6.) **In case of an emergency on the burning site – Call 911**

Permittee Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Fire District Official: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_