

Open Burning Regulations-Wentzville Fire Protection District

General

In all cases, the burning of trash or refuse is prohibited by State Law in all areas of St. Charles Co. (10CSR 10-5.070(3) (A)).

The burning of any debris (including leaves) is prohibited by State Law within incorporated areas (this included the Villages of Dardenne Prairie, Flint Hill, Foristell and the Cities of O'Fallon, Lake St. Louis, and Wentzville. (10CSR 10-5.070(1) (A)).

No open burning may be conducted when the wind speed exceeds 7 miles per hour or when an officer, fire marshal, or other department official determines that the current forecasted weather conditions are unsafe to conduct open burning. Persons who have made notification that they are burning shall be contacted to inform them of the temporary prohibition on burning until the weather condition improve.

Open burning in a barrel is open burning and subject to the restrictions listed herein (International Fire Code 2009 Section 307.4)

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

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

The open burning of brush may only occur between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (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 obtain open burning must be obtained from the Fire District (International Fire Code 2009 Section 307.2) The permit shall be valid for the current burning season only. The person conducting the burning shall notify the District's Administrative Offices each day they are conducting open burning.

Open burning must be conducted at least 50 feet from any structure. (International Fire Code 2009 Section 307.4)

Any open burning must be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. Some type of extinguisher (garden hose, ABC extinguisher, dirt) must be readily available while burning is being conducted. (International Fire Code 2009 Section 307.5)

Recreational Burn Permits (Bonfires)

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) (International Fire Code 2009 Section 307.4.2)

A permit is required for a bonfire. The permit must be requested by and issued to the owner of the land at which the fire is to occur. The permit is valid for the day the permit is applied for (International Fire Code 2009 Section 307.2)

Fuel for a bonfire shall 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 air contaminants.(International Fire Code 2009 Section 307.2.2 as amended in Ordinance # 125.)

A bonfire shall not more than 5 feet by 5 feet in dimension and not burn longer than three hours. Variances to this requirement may only be granted by the code official (International Fire Code 2009 Section 307.4.1.1 as amended in Ordinance # 125)

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

A permit to conduct these types of burns must be obtained from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (10CSR10-5.070(3) H)

The permittee must notify the Fire District and provide proof of MoDNR authorization to conduct open burning (International Fire Code 2009 Section 307.2) The permittee must also notify the district each day they intend to conduct open burning.

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

Open burning may only be conducted between the hours of 8:00am and 4:00pm.

Fires that create a public nuisance (i.e. Smoke or ash complaints) may cause the district to revoke approval, which in turn invalidates the MoDNR permit provision of 10CSR10-5.070(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, i.e. Burning a prairie field by the Co. parks department (However, no permit is required from MoDNR for this type of fire.) (International Fire Code 2009 Section 307.2)

A MoDNR permit is required for agricultural fires for weed and pest control, conducted between April 15 and September 15 (No permit is required from September 16 to April 14). A Fire District permit is required at all times of the year. 10CSR 10-8.070(3) (E) and (International Fire Code 2009 Section 307.2)