



The Wentzville Fire Protection District would like to answer some frequently asked questions about Open Burning, Recreational Fires, and Portable Outdoor Fireplaces.

The Fire District has adopted the 2015 International Fire Codes which provides the general requirements. If at any time an open flame is deemed unsafe or a nuisance it will be extinguished by the Fire District. All fires must be constantly attended and provisions in place to keep the fire from spreading.

- 1) **Open Burning:** Open Burning is when the products of combustion are emitted directly into the air and has several different circumstances that can effect the size and location of the Fire. Open burning is not land clearing and is only allowed for yard waste grown on each specific residential property. Furniture, tires, trash and other construction debris is not allowed. Open Burning is not allowed on commercial property. Open burning requires a permit from the fire district and is only allowed in the unincorporated parts of the county. Open burning is limited to a 4 foot diameter size pile and only allowed between September 15 through April 15th from 10am till 4pm. All fires must be constantly attended. The location of open burning shall be at least 50 feet from any structure and provisions in place to keep the fire from spreading such as a garden hose, fire extinguisher, fire break or heavy earth moving equipment. If the pile size is 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height the distance to a structure is reduced to 25 feet. An open fire in an approved container can be located not less than 15 feet from a structure.
- 2) **Bonfires:** A Bonfire is used for ceremonial purposes, does not require a permit and is limited to a 4 feet diameter 4 feet high size pile but must be extinguisher within 3 hours. Bonfires shall not be conducted within 50 feet of a structure or combustible material. All conditions that could allow the fire to spread need to be eliminated prior to ignition.
- 3) **Recreational Fires:** Recreational fires do not require a permit and are limited to a total fuel area of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height and shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure. Conditions that could allow a fire to spread need to be eliminated prior to ignition.
- 4) **Portable Outdoor Fireplaces:** Portable outdoor fireplaces that burn solid fuel shall be constructed of non-combustible materials. Fireplaces shall be operated according to the manufacturers instructions and not within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material. Small portable outdoor fireplaces that are covered may be used closer to structures only in one and two family dwellings.

If you have any questions or for more Information please contact the Wentzville Fire Protection District