



FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

Office of Fire Marshal
111 River Styx Rd
973-770-1200 ext. 116
Richard H. Cook – Chief Fire Marshal
Smoke Detectors Save Lives!



This document does not cover open burning such as bonfires, or agricultural burning. That information is handled on a case by case basis, by contacting the Fire Marshal directly.

With the adoption of the 2006 International Fire Code, New Jersey edition, open burning allowances changed considerably.

Open burning is defined as wherein products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber. For the purpose 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 combustion air and permit the escape of exhaust gas are open.

Prohibited open burning (307.1.1) Open burning that is offensive or objectionable because of smoke emissions or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited. In addition, any fire which has potential to cause a wildfire is prohibited by this subchapter, without first obtaining a permit from the State Forest Fire Service in the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Allowable burning (307.2) Open burning shall be allowed without prior notification to the fire official for recreational fires, highway safety flares, smudge pots and similar occupational needs.

Location: 1. Fires in approved containers shall not be less than 15 feet from a structure.

2. In the case of recreational fires, they shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure. The pile size shall be 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height. If the pile size is larger than outlined in #2 above, the distance shall be increased to 50 feet or greater from any structure, and provision shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 50 feet of any structure. All conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

Fuel: Only seasoned dry hardwoods may be burned. No garbage, leaves, construction debris, trash, rubbish, plastic, leather or petroleum based materials are permitted to be burned. The fire shall be kindled with only a small amount of newspaper.

Attendance: Open burning and recreational fires shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum 4:A fire extinguisher or other approved fire extinguishing equipment such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck are required on site.

Extinguishment authority: the fire official is authorized to order the extinguishment by the permit holder, another responsible person, or the fire department shall extinguish fires that create or add to a hazardous or objectionable situation.

Neighbor vs. neighbor complaints are remedied through the Community Dispute Resolution Committee or Municipal Court-the police or fire marshal's office do not settle disputes.

Remember, YOU are responsible and liable for the fire and the consequences of your actions. Never start a fire when the fire danger is high, very high or extreme as determined by the New Jersey Forest Fire Service.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the fire marshal at the above telephone number.

Rich Cook
Fire Marshal