



Anderson Township Fire & Rescue

7850 Five Mile Road

Cincinnati, OH 45230

(513) 688-8400

www.andersontownshipoh.gov



Open Burning, Bonfires, Recreational Fires and Portable Fireplaces Rules & Regulations

Open Burning: The burning of materials wherein products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber. Open burning does not include road flares, smudge pots and similar devices associated with safety or occupational uses typically considered open flames, recreational fires or use of portable outdoor fireplaces.

- A. Open burning shall only be permitted with prior approval from the state or local air and water quality management authority, provided that all conditions specified in the authorization are followed.

[Southwest Ohio Air Quality Control](#)

- B. If approval is granted, a permit is required from the Anderson Fire & Rescue Department at least 10 days in advance of the fire in accordance with rule 1301:7-7-01 of the Administrative Code prior to kindling a fire for recognized silvicultural or range or wildlife management practices, prevention or control of disease or pests, or a bonfire. Application for such approval shall only be presented by and permits issued to the owner of the land upon which the fire is to be kindled.

- 1) If commercial in nature, a permit is required from the Ohio EPA (513) 946-7743 which will need to be obtained and submitted with the application for open burning to the fire department. Ohio EPA permits require 10 days for processing as well as 1,000 feet to the nearest inhabited structure not located on the premises.

- C. 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.
- D. The fire code official is authorized to order the extinguishment by the permit holder, another person responsible or the fire department of

open burning that creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation.

- E. The location for open burning shall not be less than 150 feet from any structure, and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 50 feet of any structure.

1) Exceptions:

- i. Fire in approved containers that are not less than 15 feet from structure.
- ii. The minimum required distance from a structure shall be 25 feet where the pile size is 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height.

Bonfire: An outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes and has a total fuel area of 5 feet or less in diameter and 5 feet or less in height.

- A. Open burning shall only be permitted with prior approval from the state or local air and water quality management authority, provided that all conditions specified in the authorization are followed.
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- B. A permit is required from the Anderson Fire & Rescue Department – application for same should be made at least 10 days in advance of a bonfire shall not be conducted within 50 feet of a structure or combustible material unless the fire is contained in a barbecue pit. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 50 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.
- C. A bonfire that is offensive or objectionable because of smoke emissions or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited.
- D. Fire burns no longer than 3 hours
- E. Burn only clean, dry seasoned firewood – may not be used for waste disposal (including yard waste).

Recreational fire: An outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, portable outdoor fireplace, barbecue grill or barbecue pit and has a total fuel area of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth, or similar purposes.

- A. No notification or permit is required for this use.
- B. Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.
- C. Burn only clean, dry seasoned firewood – may not be used for waste disposal.
- D. A recreational fire that is offensive or objectionable because of smoke emissions or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited.

Portable outdoor fireplace: A portable, outdoor, solid-fuel-burning fireplace that may be constructed of steel, concrete, clay or other noncombustible material. A portable outdoor fireplace may be open in design or may be equipped with a small hearth opening and a short chimney operating in the top.

- A. Portable outdoor fireplaces shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material.
 - 1) Exception:
 - a. Portable outdoor fireplaces used at one-and-two-family dwellings.

General Burning Requirements

1. **Fire shall not be utilized for waste disposal (including yard waste).**
2. The permit(s), if required, must be present at the site for the duration of the fire and the fire must take place at the location specified on the issued permit(s).
3. Any person who starts a fire is responsible for all suppression costs and possible liability from damage caused by the fire. If you decide to burn, choose to do so under conditions that minimize health and safety risks.
4. Required clearance distances from structures must be strictly followed, as should the duration limitations of the burn.
5. Opening burning, bonfires, recreational fires, and portable outdoor fireplaces shall be *constantly attended* by a responsible adult until the fire is extinguished - all children and pets should be kept at a safe distance.
6. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating or other approved on-site fire-extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck, shall be available for immediate utilization in the immediate vicinity of the fire.
7. Any outdoor burning that is offensive or objectionable because of smoke emissions or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited. *The fire code official is authorized to order the extinguishment by the permit holder, another person responsible or the fire department of outdoor burning that creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation – this is applicable to all types of fires.*
8. Wind speed and direction must be considered. Fires should not be ignited when current or forecasted wind speeds are greater than 10 mph. Potential for wind gusts should also be considered. Smoke can cause immediate public health risks and create a hazard by impairing visibility on public roadways. Fires lit at night or early evening are subject to inversions which cause the smoke to pool in low-lying areas.



9. Contact the fire department (513) 688-8400 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., but in advance of the fire ignition, to advise them of your intent to burn with times and location of intended burn and advise that you have been issued a permit.
10. If a permit is required from the Anderson Township Fire Department, the application for the permit and a \$35 permit fee must be filed at least 10 days in advance of the planned fire at the Anderson Government Center, 7850 Five Mile Road. Fuel shall consist of seasoned dry firewood. Strictly adhere to the distance requirements relative to other structures.

Helpful links:

[Hamilton county Environment Services](#)

[Ohio EPA](#)

[Ohio Administrative Code - 3745-19](#)

[Ohio Revised Code - 1503.18](#)

[Anderson Township Fire - Life Safety](#)

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