



Fairfield Fire Department
375 Nilles Road
Fairfield, Ohio
513-867-5379

Open Burning & Fire Pit Regulations



Open Burning

Open burning in the City of Fairfield is only allowed in the City of Fairfield **IF** certain conditions are met, which includes commercially made or homemade fire pits. Open burning is enforced using Section 307 of the Ohio Fire Code, which states:

1. A person shall not kindle or maintain or authorize to be kindled or maintained any open burning unless conducted and approved in accordance with this paragraph.
2. 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.
3. The location for open burning shall not be less than 50 feet from any structure, and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 50 feet of any structure.

Exceptions:

1. Fires in approved containers that are not less than 15 feet (4572 mm) from a structure.
2. The minimum required distance from a structure shall be 25 feet (7620 mm) where the pile size is 3 feet (914 mm) or less in diameter and 2 feet (610 mm) or less in height.
4. Burning of yard waste is prohibited, which includes: grass, leaves, pruning's, brush, shrubs, garden materials, Christmas trees, and tree limbs up to 4 inches in diameter.

Fire Pits

Fire pits are a great way to spend time with family and friends! Fire pits include below-ground pits, freestanding fireplaces, and portable devices intended to contain and control outside fires. The Fairfield Fire Department enforces the following rules when it comes to fire pits:

1. All below-ground fire pits shall be at least 4 inches in depth and be surrounded on the outside of the pit by a noncombustible, above-the-ground material such as steel, brick, or masonry.
2. Fire pits must be at least 15 feet away from combustible materials such as structures, wood or paper products, etc.
3. Commercially made permanent or portable fireplace/fire pits designed for outdoor use
4. The fire pit must be on private property, in the rear yard, and not in an easement.
5. Only natural, sawn wood may be burned in these devices. Burning of yard waste, trash, etc., is strictly prohibited.
6. If the fire pit being used is deemed a danger and/or a nuisance by the fire department due to conditions such as excessive smoking, flames too high, improper burning of materials, etc., then the fire department will order that the fire either be fully extinguished or brought back within allowable parameters.

Recreational Fires

Most open burns are considered recreational fires. A recreational fire is defined as an outdoor fire burning material other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, barbecue grill, or barbecue pit, has a total fuel area of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height, that is used for pleasure; or religious, ceremonial, cooking, or warmth. Using seasoned firewood is typically the best option.

1. Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material. Conditions which could cause fire spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.
2. Using fire for other purposes such as burning sheathing off of copper wire, eliminating pests and rodents, etc., is also strictly prohibited.

Bonfires

Bonfires may be conducted within the City of Fairfield as long as certain conditions are met:

1. A permit must be obtained from the City of Fairfield and the Fairfield Fire Department prior to conducting a bonfire.
2. 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 the fire to spread within 50 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.