



# CITY OF OAK PARK

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## **GUIDELINES: OPEN BURNING ORDINANCE**

Oak Park City Council recently amended the open burning ordinance in the City of Oak Park. The City provides the guidelines below from its ordinance, as well as relevant sections of the International Fire Code (2015) to assist residences with ordinance compliance.

**ALLOWED: Portable Outdoor Fireplaces.** There must be 25 ft. of clearance on all sides from the nearest structure not on your property. You may use only clean woods for fuel – natural wood that has not been painted, varnished or pressure treated.

**NOT ALLOWED:** NO burning of any kind is allowed, including the use of portable outdoor fireplaces, when the Southeast Michigan Council of Government (SEMCOG) has declared an air quality alert or ozone action day.

**PERMIT REQUIREMENT: Any other type of outdoor burning (excluding portable outdoor fireplaces) requires an annual permit from the Department of Public Safety, e.g., Campfire – diameter of less than four feet; and Recreational fire – total fuel area of three (3) feet or less in diameter and two (2) feet or less in height.**

**307.1.1 Prohibited Open Burning:** Open burning shall be prohibited when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous. **NO** burning of leaves, grass, trash (including paper or cardboard), other household waste, construction materials or demolition waste shall be permitted.

**307.2 Extinguishment Authority:** When open burning creates or adds to a hazardous situation, or a required permit for open burning has not been obtained, the *fire code official* is authorized to order the extinguishment of the open burning operation.

**307.4.3 Portable Outdoor Fireplaces:** Portable outdoor fireplaces shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall not be operated within 25 feet (4572mm) of a structure or combustible material.

**307.5 Attendance:** *Open burning, recreational fires* and the use of portable outdoor fireplaces shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher complying with Section 906 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.

**The Oak Park Public Safety Department will investigate all burn complaints. The Oak Park Public Safety Department reserves the right to extinguish any fires within its jurisdiction that it deems outside approved Department guidelines.**