



500 West Big Beaver
Troy, MI 48084
troymi.gov

Troy Fire Department

P: 248.524.3419
F: 248.689.7520

OPEN FLAMES OR BURNING

A Summary Guide for Cooking or Outdoor Fires on Your Property, within the City of Troy, MI

The City of Troy allows open burning under certain circumstances. The fire department is providing this handout to assist you in understanding the intent of this ordinance, thereby preventing any uncertainty. The following words and terms have the following meanings associated with them as they relate to this ordinance:

DESCRIPTIONS

Open Burning: The burning of any materials 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.

Bonfire: An outdoor fire which burns only seasoned dry firewood or clean untreated lumber intended to minimize the generation of air contaminants and is utilized for occasional special events subject to the following provisions:

1. Prior approval of the Troy City Council.
2. Compliance with any special restrictions as determined by the fire official.
3. Payment of costs associated with special fire protection, as determined by the fire official.

Once approved, the intended maximum size and duration of a bonfire shall not be increased unless by City Council and only after it has been determined by the fire official that fire safety requirements of the situation and the desirable duration of burn warrant the increase prior to the bonfire.

Ground Fire: An outdoor fire for the purpose of viewing or warming, or utilized to cook food for human consumption, or for ceremonial purposes, which burns only seasoned dry firewood or commercially available charcoal briquettes. Such a fire shall be the minimum size for the intended purpose but not larger than 3 feet in any dimension and shall be contained in a safe manner. (See included checklist)



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ALLOWABLE BURNING

Open Burning shall be allowed without prior notification to the fire official for **ground fires** and **short term occupational needs** when done in a safe manner so as not to create a hazard or nuisance.

Bonfires may be permitted if in compliance with the definition of a bonfire set forth herein. The fuel chosen for allowable burning shall be that described herein and shall minimize the generation of air contaminants.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Size: Approved ground fire pits shall not be larger than 3 feet in any dimension.

Location: The location for any open burning shall not be less than 25 feet (7620 mm) from any structure. Provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 25 feet (7620 mm) of any structure. Fires in approved pre-manufactured containers, which are being used for their intended purpose, shall be allowed closer to a structure but not less than the appliance manufacturer's recommended safe distance, except where prohibited by this code.

Attendance: Any **open flame use** shall be constantly attended by a responsible person until the fire is extinguished. At least one portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating, two portable fire extinguishers with a minimum 2-A rating each, or other approved on-site fire extinguishing equipment, such as a garden hose, shall be available for immediate utilization.

Prohibited Burning:

Burning for purposes of incineration of waste material, including paper, leaves, or any other combustible debris, outside of any structure, at any place is prohibited.

Open flames (cooking or open burning) within 10 feet of combustible construction are not allowed.

- *Exception: 1 & 2 family residential dwellings*

Authority to Prohibit Fires Which Are Hazardous or Create a Nuisance:

A fire or police official may **prohibit open burning** that creates a hazard or nuisance, even if the open burning is otherwise in compliance with this ordinance. A fire official or police official may order the extinguishment of any open burning which is not in compliance with this section.

Any questions regarding this information can be directed to the Troy Fire Department, Fire Prevention Division, at the phone number above, during regular business hours.

After regular business hours, residents may call 248-524-3477 to ask questions, or report a problem.



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Ground Fire - Checklist

- Dimensions:** Not greater than 3 feet across; Not taller than 2 feet
- Location:** Not within 25 feet of combustible structures or other materials (or for pre-manufactured burning devices, installation & use according to manufacturer's recommendations)
- Burning Material:** Use only seasoned, dried firewood or charcoal briquettes
- Other Notable Safety Tips:**
 - Constantly attended by at least one responsible adult
 - Means of extinguishment handy (Hose, Extinguisher, Shovel/Dirt, etc)
 - Do not incinerate waste (Leaves, Grass, Household Waste, etc.)
 - When installing fire pit, consider distance to vegetation and overhead growth. Do not allow conditions that may allow a fire to spread easily outside of the fire pit area
 - Evaluate surrounding conditions (Too Dry, Too Wet, or Too Windy)

Details:

This ordinance was designed to allow residents to socialize around a small, controlled fire, and limit the amount of air contaminants being released. If complaints are received regarding the amount, type, or longevity of smoke in the area, a fire code official or uniformed police officer may order the fire to be extinguished. All open burning is required to meet the minimum standards of the Clean Air Act, as enforced by Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).