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Open Burning Requirements
Fire Prevention Division
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OPEN BURNING REQUIREMENTS – CITY OF TROY

WHAT IS A BONFIRE? A “Bonfire” is an outdoor fire which burns only seasoned, dried firewood or clean untreated lumber intended to minimize the generation of air contaminants, is greater in size than a ground fire, and is utilized for occasional special events subject to the following provisions:

1. Prior approval of the Troy City Council (this requires a minimum 2 week prior notice to City Clerk for inclusion on the next agenda, and completion of any required documentation)
2. Compliance with any special restrictions, as determined by the fire official.
 - a. Submit Site Plan for Approval
 - b. Submit Emergency Plan for Approval
 - c. Submit Emergency Contact Information
3. Payment of costs associated with special fire protection as determined by the fire official.

WHAT IS A GROUND FIRE? A “Ground Fire” is 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, dried firewood or commercially available charcoal briquettes intended to minimize the generation of air contaminants.

307.1.1 Prohibited Open Burning. Open burning that is offensive or objectionable because of smoke or odor emissions or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited. 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.

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

307.4.4 Ground Fires. A ground fire shall be the minimum size for the intended purpose but not larger than 3 feet by 3 feet by 3 feet in dimension and shall be contained in a safe manner. It shall also meet the following requirements:

- Burn only seasoned, dried firewood or clean untreated lumber intended to minimize the generation of air contaminants
- Constantly attended by a minimum of one adult
- Maintain access to device(s) to suppress or minimize the spread of fire
- Maintain a safe distance from structures or other combustibles
- Pile height to remain under 3 feet
- Complaints regarding odor or smoke transmission may require law enforcement or the fire code official to require fire extinguishment (T.C.C. 307.1.1)

If you have any questions regarding open burning, please contact our office at (248) 524-3419 and ask to speak to someone in fire prevention.