

Codified Ordinances of the City of Ashland, Ohio
Chapter 1503
Open Burning

1503.01 DEFINITIONS.

As used in Chapter 3745-19 of the Ohio Administrative Code and this chapter:

(a) "Agricultural waste" means any waste material generated by crop, horticultural, or livestock production practices, and includes such items as woody debris and plant matter from stream flooding, bags, cartons, structural materials, and landscape wastes that are generated in agricultural activities, but does not include land clearing waste; buildings (including dismantled/fallen barns); garbage; dead animals; animal waste; motor vehicles and parts thereof; nor economic poisons and containers thereof, unless the manufacturer has identified open burning as a safe disposal procedure.

(b) "Economic poisons" include but are not restricted to pesticides such as insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides, miticides, nematocides and fumigants; herbicides; seed disinfectants; and defoliant.

(c) "Garbage" means any waste material resulting from the handling, processing, preparation, cooking and consumption of food or food products.

(d) "Landscape waste" means any plant waste material, except garbage, including trees, tree trimmings, branches, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery, yard trimmings and crop residues.

(e) "Land clearing waste" means plant waste material which is removed from land, including plant waste material removed from stream banks during projects involving more than one property owner, for the purpose of rendering the land useful for residential, commercial, or industrial development. Land clearing waste also includes the plant waste material generated during the clearing of land for new agricultural development.

(f) "Ohio EPA" means the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Director or agencies delegated authority by such Director pursuant to Ohio R.C. 3704.03 or the Chief of any Ohio Environmental Protection Agency district office.

(g) "Open burning" means the burning of any materials wherein air contaminants resulting from combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney. Open burning includes the burning of any refuse or salvageable material in any device not subject to or designed specifically to comply with the requirements of Ohio Administrative Code 3745-17-09 or 3745-17-10.

(h) "Residential waste" means any waste material, including landscape waste, generated on the property of a one-, two- or three-family residence as a result of residential activities, but not including garbage, rubber, grease, asphalt, liquid petroleum products, or plastics.

(i) "Restricted area" means the area within the boundary of any municipal corporation established in accordance with the provisions of Title 7 of the Ohio Revised Code, plus a zone extending 1,000 feet beyond the boundaries of any such municipal corporation having a population of 1,000 to 10,000 persons and a zone extending one mile beyond any such municipal corporation having a population of 10,000 persons or more according to the latest federal census.

(j) "Unrestricted area" means all areas outside the boundaries of a restricted area as defined in subsection (i) hereof.

(OAC 3745-19-01)

(k) "Bonfire" means an outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes.

(l) "Recreational fire" means 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 (914 mm) or less in diameter and 2 feet (610 mm) or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.

(OAC 1301:7-7-03)

1503.02 RELATIONS TO OTHER PROHIBITIONS.

(a) Notwithstanding any provision in Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3745-19, no open burning shall be conducted in an area where an air alert, warning or emergency under Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3745-25 is in effect.

(b) No provisions of Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3745-19, permitting open burning, and no permission to open burn granted by the Ohio EPA, shall exempt any person from compliance with any section of the Ohio Revised Code, or any regulation of any State department, or any local ordinance or regulation dealing with open burning.

(OAC 3745-19-02)

1503.03 OPEN BURNING IN RESTRICTED AREAS.

(a) No person or property owner shall cause or allow open burning in a restricted area except as provided in subsections (b) to (d) hereof; in Ohio R.C. 3704.11 and in compliance with Section **1503.05** of this chapter.

(b) Open burning shall be allowed for the following purposes without notification to or permission from the Ohio EPA:

(1) Heating tar, welding, acetylene torches, highway safety flares, heating for warmth of outdoor workers and strikers, smudge pots and similar occupational needs.

(2) Bonfires, campfires and outdoor fireplace equipment, whether for cooking food for human consumption, pleasure, religious, ceremonial, warmth, recreational, or similar purposes, if the following conditions are met:

A. They are fueled with clean seasoned firewood, natural gas, or equivalent, or any clean burning fuel with emissions that are equivalent to or lower than those created from the burning of seasoned firewood;

B. They are not used for waste disposal purposes; and

C. They shall have a total fuel area of three feet or less in diameter and two feet or less in height.

(3) Disposal of hazardous explosive materials, military munitions or explosive devices that require immediate action to prevent endangerment of human health, public safety, property or the environment and that are excluded from the requirement to obtain a hazardous waste permit pursuant to paragraph (D)(1)(d) of Rule 3745-50-45 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

(4) Recognized training in the use of fire extinguishers for commercial or industrial fire prevention.

(5) Fires set at the direction of federal, state, and local law enforcement officials for the purpose of destruction of cannabis sativa (marijuana) plant vegetation, processed marijuana material and/or other drugs seized by federal, state or local law enforcement officials.

Fires allowed by subsections (b)(1), (b)(2) and (b)(4) hereof shall not be used for waste disposal purposes and shall be of minimum size sufficient for their intended purpose; the fuel shall be chosen to minimize the generation and emission of air contaminants.

(c) Open burning shall be allowed for the following purposes with prior notification to the Ohio EPA in accordance with subsection (b) of Section **1503.04**:

(1) Prevention or control of disease or pests, with written or oral verification to the Ohio EPA from the Ohio Department of Health or local health department, the centers for disease control and prevention, cooperative extension service, Ohio Department of Agriculture, or U.S. Department of Agriculture, that open burning is the only appropriate disposal method.

(2) Bonfires or campfires used for ceremonial purposes that do not meet the requirements of subsection (b)(2) hereof, provided the following conditions are met:

A. They have a total fuel area no greater than five feet in diameter by five feet in height and burn no longer than three hours;

B. They are not to be used for waste disposal purposes; and

C. They are fueled with clean seasoned firewood, natural gas or equivalent, or any clean burning fuel with emissions that are equivalent to or lower than those created from the burning of seasoned firewood.

(3) Disposal of agricultural waste generated on the premises if the following conditions are observed:

A. The fire is set only when atmospheric conditions will readily dissipate contaminants;

B. The fire does not create a visibility hazard on the roadways, railroad tracks, or air fields;

C. The fire is located at a point on the premises no less than one thousand feet from any inhabited building not located on said premises;

D. The wastes are stacked and dried to provide the best practicable condition for efficient burning; and

E. No materials are burned which contain rubber, grease, asphalt, liquid petroleum products, plastics or building materials.

(d) Open burning shall be allowed for the following purposes upon receipt of written permission from the Ohio EPA, in accordance with subsection (a) of Section 1503.04, provided that any conditions specified in the permission are followed:

(1) Disposal of ignitable or explosive materials where the Ohio EPA determines that there is no practical alternate method of disposal, excluding those materials identified in subsection (b)(3) hereof;

(2) Instruction in methods of fire fighting or for research in the control of fire as recognized by the State Fire Marshal Division of the Ohio Department of Commerce and the guidelines set forth in the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) publication 1403: "Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions, Chapter 4, Acquired Structures", provided that the application required in subsection (a)(1) of Section **1503.04** is submitted by the commercial or public entity responsible for the instruction;

(3) In emergency or other extraordinary circumstances for any purpose determined to be necessary by the Director and, if required, performed as identified in the appendix to Rule 3745-19-03 of the Ohio Administrative Code. If deemed necessary, the open burning may be authorized with prior oral approval by the Director followed by the issuance of a written permission to open burn within seven working days of the oral approval;

(4) Recognized horticultural, silvicultural (forestry), range or wildlife management practices; and

(5) Fires and/or pyrotechnic effects, for purposes other than waste disposal, set as part of commercial film-making or video production activities for motion pictures and television.

(OAC 3745-19-03)

1503.04 PERMISSION TO INDIVIDUALS AND NOTIFICATION TO THE OHIO EPA.

(a) Permission.

(1) An application for permission to open burn shall be submitted in writing to Ohio EPA. The applicant shall allow Ohio EPA at least ten working days to review the permit. Applicant may proceed with burn upon receipt of written permission from Ohio EPA. Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays shall not be considered working days. The application shall be in such form and contain such information as required by the Ohio EPA.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (a)(6) and (a)(7) hereof, such applications shall contain, as a minimum, information regarding:

- A. The purpose of the proposed burning;
- B. The quantity or acreage and the nature of the materials to be burned;
- C. The date or dates when such burning will take place;
- D. The location of the burning site, including a map showing distances to residences, populated areas, roadways, air fields, and other pertinent landmarks; and
- E. The methods or actions which will be taken to reduce the emissions of air contaminants.

(3) Permission to open burn shall not be granted unless the applicant demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Ohio EPA that open burning is necessary to the public interest; will be conducted in a time, place and manner as to minimize the emission of air contaminants, when atmospheric conditions are appropriate; and will have no serious detrimental effect upon adjacent properties or the occupants thereof. The Ohio EPA may impose such conditions as may be necessary to accomplish the purpose of Chapter 3745-19 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

(4) Except as provided in subsection (a)(6) hereof, permission to open burn must be obtained for each specific project. In emergencies where public health or environmental quality will be seriously threatened by delay while written permission is sought, the fire may be set with oral permission of the Ohio EPA.

(5) Violations of any of the conditions set forth by the Ohio EPA in granting permission to open burn shall be grounds for revocation of such permission and refusal to grant future permission, as well as for the imposition of other sanctions provided by law.

(6) The Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal, may request permission to open burn on an annual basis for the purpose of training firefighters on pre-flashover conditions using the Ohio fire academy's mobile training laboratory at either the academy or at other training sites in Ohio. The annual application required pursuant to subsection (a)(1) hereof shall contain information as required in paragraph (a)(2) of this rule, except the information required in subsections (a)(2)C. and (A)(2)D. hereof need not be provided unless it is available at the time of submittal of the application. The academy shall contact the appropriate Ohio EPA district office or local air agency at least five working days before each training session of the date or dates when the training session will take place and its location. Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays shall not be considered working days.

(7) For open burning defined under subsection (d)(2) of Section [1503.03](#), and paragraph (C)(2) of Rule 3745-19-04 of the Administrative Code, permission to open burn shall not be granted unless the applicant provides proof of written notice of intent to demolish received by the appropriate Ohio EPA field office in accordance with Rule 3745-20-03 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

(b) Notification.

(1) Notification shall be submitted in writing at least ten working days before the fire is to be set. Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays shall not be considered working days. It shall be in such form and contain such information as shall be required by the Ohio EPA.

(2) Such notification shall inform the Ohio EPA regarding:

- A. The purpose of the proposed burning;
- B. The nature and quantities of materials to be burned;
- C. The date or dates when such burning will take place; and
- D. The location of the burning site.

(3) The Ohio EPA, after receiving notification, may determine that the open burning is not allowed under Chapter 3745-19 of the Administrative Code and the Ohio EPA shall notify the applicant to this effect.

(OAC 3745-19-05)

1503.05 OPEN BURNING; RECREATIONA FIRES; PORTABLE OUTDOOR FIREPLACES.

(a) General. 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 section.

(b) Prohibited Open Burning. 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.

(c) Permit Required. A permit shall be obtained from the Fire Code Official in accordance with Rule 1301:7-7-01 of the Ohio Fire 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.

(d) Authorization. Where required by state or local law or regulations, 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.

(e) Extinguishment Authority. 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.

(f) Location. The location for open burning shall not be less than 50 feet (15,240 mm) from any structure, and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 50 feet (15,240 mm) of any structure.

(g) 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.

A. Bonfires. A bonfire shall not be conducted within 50 feet (15,240 mm) 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 (15,240 mm) of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

B. Recreational fires. Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet (7620 mm) of a structure or combustible material. Conditions which could cause a

fire to spread within 25 feet (7620 mm) of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

C. Portable outdoor fireplaces. Portable outdoor fireplaces shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall not be operated within 15 feet (3048 mm) of a structure or combustible material.

Exception: Portable outdoor fireplaces used at one- and two-family dwellings.

(h) Attendance. Open burning, bonfires, recreational fires and use of portable outdoor fireplaces shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher complying with paragraph (F)(906) of rule 1301:7-7-09 of the Administrative Code 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. (OAC 1301:7-7-03)

1503.99 PENALTY.

Whoever violates any provision of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree and shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or imprisoned not more than sixty days, or both.