



Northville Township Fire Department

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Outdoor Fire Guidelines

The following General Requirements are designed to provide the public with the proper guidance to prevent unwanted fires due to the unsafe and/or unlawful operation of outdoor fires and to further protect the safety, health and welfare of the community. The following General Requirements apply to all outdoor fires occurring within Northville Township and must be followed at all times.

General Requirements:

- 1) **Permit.** 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 document (307.1). See the **Quick Reference Guide** for permit requirements. Permits are available at Northville Township Fire Department's Headquarters located at 45745 W. Six Mile Rd. weekdays between 08:00 am and 4:00 pm. Building Department permits are available at 44405 W. Six Mile Rd. weekdays between 08:00 am and 4:00 pm.
- 2) **Responsibility.** You are legally responsible for any fire that you start.
- 3) **Location.** See the **Quick Reference Guide** in regards to outdoor fire locations, minimum clearances to structures and combustibles and permit requirements. Use the **Definitions** section of this document to determine the type of outdoor fire you are conducting.
- 4) **Property.** Outdoor fires are only permitted on your property. Outdoor fires located on public property including businesses, schools, or churches must apply for a permit.
- 5) **Property lines.** A minimum of 15 feet of clearance from your side lot line is required. For permanent structures a Zoning Permit may be required. Contact the Building Department for further information.
- 6) **Other authority.** You are responsible to check with your local homeowners association, property management, rental or lease agreement, homeowner/renter's insurance agency or other authority in regards to outdoor fire restrictions.
- 7) **Purpose.** Outdoor fires are only permitted for ceremonial, recreational, cooking, warmth, religious or pleasure purposes.
- 8) **Attendance.** All fires shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. Those in attendance must be responsible for the fire and capable of extinguishing and/or controlling the fire at all times.
- 9) **Extinguishment.** Completely extinguish the fire including the remaining ashes, cinders, embers or coals prior to leaving the fire (307.5). All ash, embers or remnants of a fire shall be properly cooled prior to disposal. All remnants shall be placed in a noncombustible container prior to disposal.
- 10) **Method of extinguishment.** A minimum of one (1) portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating or other on-site fire-extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, or garden hose, shall be available for immediate use (307.5).
- 11) **Type of fuel.** Only dry, seasoned wood may be used. Firewood that is dried contains less moisture and produces fires that create less smoke.
- 12) **Waste disposal.** Outdoor fires shall not be used for waste disposal purposes such as the burning of paper, leaves, brush, trash or construction materials (Township Ordinance 149-11, 67-41, State of Michigan 324.11522).
- 13) **Quantity of fuel (size).** Under no circumstances shall a fire be started that exceeds a total fuel area of 3 feet in diameter by 2 feet in height without prior approval and permits.
- 14) **Ignitable liquids.** Gasoline, kerosene or other ignitable liquids are not permitted.

- 15) **Manufacturer's instructions.** It is your responsibility to follow the manufacturer's instructions for the proper use of your device. If manufacturer's instructions cannot be produced, the most restrictive minimum clearance distances will be required.
- 16) **Hazardous conditions.** Open burning shall be prohibited when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous (307.1.1). It is your responsibility to visit www.northvillemich.com/fire for information regarding open burning and outdoor fire bans or restrictions. Additionally, sign up for Northville Township Public Safety e-notifications to receive an email if burning is prohibited for any reason.
- 17) **Complaints.** Complaints received by the Department of Public Safety will be evaluated by the fire department on a case by case basis. The receipt of a complaint regarding open burning or outdoor fires may not require the fire to be extinguished if the outdoor fire complies with these listed guidelines. Fires that do not create a hazardous, unreasonably offensive or unreasonably objectionable situation may be permitted to continue.
- 18) **Prohibited burning.** Any open burning or outdoor fire that is deemed hazardous, unreasonably offensive or unreasonably objectionable because of smoke emissions or other conditions shall be prohibited even when complying with all of the above rules and regulations (307.1.1, 307.2.1). Any departure from the listed guidelines may lead to enforcement up to and including citation.
- 19) **Extinguishment authority.** Where outdoor fires create or add to a hazardous situation, a required permit has not been obtained, and/or the fire is deemed unreasonably offensive or unreasonably objectionable, the department is authorized to order the extinguishment of such fire (307.3).
- 20) **Future prohibitions.** The department reserves the right to prohibit outdoor fires on your property if these regulations are not followed or if you create a hazardous situation.

If you have any questions, please contact us at (248) 348-5807 or via email at thughes@twp.northville.mi.us.

Respectfully,



Thomas M. Hughes, Jr.
Fire Marshal