



## Fire Department

### OPEN BURNING ORDINANCE

A. Open Burning Prohibited. 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. Open burning for outdoor cooking is permitted without any burning permit if performed in an approved container constructed of steel, brick, or masonry. Open burning in portable, outdoor fireplaces is permitted.

B. Except as provided in this section, the open burning of leaves, brush, trimmings from trees or bushes, paper, garbage, refuse, waste or other combustible material on any property, public or private, within the City shall be unlawful and is hereby prohibited.

C. The foregoing prohibition shall not apply to fires in outdoor grills designed and used for cooking food and utilizing natural or propane gas, charcoal or other commercially available fuel intended for use in outdoor grills.

D. The foregoing prohibition shall not apply to fires in outdoor fireplaces and outdoor fire pits (a "fire pit" includes belowground pits, freestanding fireplaces and portable devices intended to contain and control outdoor fires) provided that the outdoor fireplace or fire pit is operated in compliance with the following regulations:

1. Hours of Operation: A person shall not maintain any outdoor burning from 11 PM to 7 AM, unless permitted and approved by the fire code official or designee.
2. A portable fireplace or fire pit shall not be operated within five feet (5') of any property line. Any fire pit or fireplace with a foundation or that is embedded in the ground shall be located not less than ten feet (10') from any property line. Portable fire pits must be located a minimum of 15 feet away from any structure or combustible material.
3. Outdoor fireplaces and fire pits shall be located on a noncombustible surface while in operation.
4. All belowground fire pits shall be at least four inches in depth and shall be surrounded on the outside, aboveground, by a non-combustible material such as steel, brick, or masonry. The fire pit cannot exceed three feet in diameter, nor may the fire pile exceed two feet in height.
5. Only charcoal, natural or propane gas, commercial fire logs or dry and seasoned firewood may be burned or used as fuel in an outdoor fireplace or fire pit.
6. No outdoor fireplace or fire pit may be operated without adult supervision and a portable fire extinguisher or other approved extinguishing equipment, such as a garden hose, must be readily available.
7. The fire must be constantly attended and supervised until the fire has been completely extinguished. A fireplace or fire pit is considered to be operating at all times that open combustion is occurring. The fire shall be completely extinguished prior to leaving the fireplace or fire pit unsupervised.

E. The foregoing prohibition shall not apply to the burning of diseased trees by employees of the city.

F. The foregoing prohibition shall not apply to fires set for the bona fide purpose of training professional firefighters.

G. Any person desiring to conduct open burning of material not permitted hereunder may make an application to the City of North Chicago for a special permit no less than seven (7) days prior to the event to allow a supervised open burning event. The special permit shall specify the date, time, place and purpose of the event; the person, firm or entity responsible for supervision of the event; and reasonable measures to be taken to protect public health, safety and welfare. No such permit shall be granted without the prior approval of the fire chief or his or her designee.

H. The fire code official or designee has the authority to order the extinguishment by the responsible person, or the fire department, of any burning that creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation.

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