

Open Burning Regulations

A permit is required for the following.

- Bonfires - a fire which does not exceed five feet by five feet by five feet (5'x5'x5') in area that is used for entertainment gatherings on residentially zoned properties or for the disposal of seasoned dry firewood.
- IEPA Fires - A fire that is specifically authorized by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for the disposal of hazardous or toxic material where the IEPA determines that there is no practical alternative method of disposal, instruction in methods of firefighting or for research in control of fires, in emergency or other extraordinary circumstances for any purpose determined to be necessary by the IEPA.
- Ecological Burns - A fire that is conducted in accordance with generally accepted industry practices to (i) promote responsible silvicultural, ecological, range or wildlife management, and/or prairie restoration, (ii) prevent or control disease or pests, and/or (iii) maintain or increase the quantity or quality or agricultural or horticultural production.
- Large Landscape Waste Fire - A fire that is conducted by the owner or lessee of a property that is used to dispose of dry branches and limbs collected from trees, shrubs, and/or bushes located on the property where the fire is being conducted and does not exceed five feet by five feet by five feet (5'x5'x5') in area.
- A permit should be visible on the site or be able to be presented to City employee upon request.

A permit is NOT required for the following.

- Recreational Fires and Small Landscape Waste Fires shall be allowed on all properties without prior notification to the City and without a City Burn Permit when conducted in strict conformance with the provision of Ordinance Number 2567.
- Location:
- If located in an Approved Container: all such fires shall be set back a minimum of fifteen feet (15') from all temporary or permanent buildings and/or wooden fences.
- In NOT located in an Approved Container: all such fires shall be set back a minimum of fifty feet (50') from all temporary or permanent buildings and/or wooden fences.
- Supervision: Are conducted with the consent and under constant and direct supervision of an owner, lessee, or occupant of the property where the Recreational Fire/Small Landscape Waste Fire is occurring who is at least sixteen (16) years of age or older.
- Size: Are limited to an area that does not exceed two feet by two feet by two feet (2'x2'x2').
- Fuel Source: The source of fuel is limited to Seasoned Dry Firewood and/or dry branches and limbs collected from trees, shrubs, or bushes located on the property where the Recreational Fire or Small Landscape Waste Fire is occurring and is ignited with a small amount of clean paper. The fuel shall be chosen to minimize the generation and emission of air contaminants.
- Days and Duration: Are permitted any day of the week at any time.