

Chapter 8.04

BURNING PERMITS

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Chapter 8.04 was repealed and replaced 7/12/18 (Ordinance 6A-18, 2018.)

8.04.010 Definitions

A. “Burning Pile” shall mean the accumulation of permitted burning materials for conducting a controlled open fire for the combustion of yard materials.

B. “Open Fire” shall mean the burning of materials wherein products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber.

C. “Outdoor Cooking” shall mean cooking food for human consumption over an open flame, utilizing a commercially manufactured cooking device, such as grill or smoker.

D. “Recreational Fire” shall mean an open fire, campfire or similar fire activity conducted in a ring made of brick, concrete, rock or in an approved metal device, not to exceed three feet by three feet or three feet in diameter, for the principal purpose of observation or cooking rather than reduction of yard waste. Natural wood and brush greater than one inch in diameter is permitted.

E. “Yard Materials” shall mean dry and natural materials, such as leaves, grass, yard clippings, and brush up to one inch in diameter.

8.04.020 General Restrictions

A. The Fire Chief shall have the sole authority to ban or restrict open fires in the City when conditions are likely to produce a threat of fire to human health, life, or property.

B. Permitted burning materials shall be restricted to charcoal and yard materials as defined in this Chapter. Purpose-built commercial cooking devices shall utilize the fuel as designed.

C. Absolutely no burning of refuse of any kind, including paper products; building materials containing glues, paints or stains; treated lumber; any materials made of or coated in rubber; petroleum-based material and plastics of any kind; electronics; furniture.

D. Fires are prohibited on City Property unless permitted and/or supervised by the Fire Chief or his/her designee. Recreational fires and outdoor cooking fires may be permitted in specifically designated locations and fixtures in City Parks.

8.04.030 Safety Considerations

The following shall be adhered to:

A. Supervising adult shall be present from the ignition of an open fire and continuous until the fire is completely extinguished. Water or fire suppression equipment shall be on hand and readily available.

B. Atmospheric Conditions. Fires will be limited to the following atmospheric conditions:

1. No fire shall be ignited unless there are favorable conditions for burning with regard to wind direction and speed. No fire shall be started at a time when the wind speed exceeds ten (10) miles per hour as measured at the National Weather Service Station at the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport or local circumstances make fires potentially hazardous.

2. Open fires shall be prohibited when such atmospheric conditions exist that would cause the smoke from open burning to stagnate such as an inversion or extremely high humidity.

C. Recreational Fires, as defined herein, and portable open-flame cooking devices, regardless of fuel, shall not be operated within ten (10) feet of combustible construction.

D. All other Open Fires not described in “C” above, shall be conducted not less than twenty five (25) feet from any structure or other combustible materials, including but not limited to sheds, fences, playground equipment, overhead wires or trees, wood piles or accumulation of fuel.

E. Burning hours shall be limited to 7:00am to 9:00pm. Recreational fires and Portable open-flame cooking devices shall be exempt from this provision.

F. Prohibited Open Fires. Open burning that will be offensive or objectionable to occupants of the surrounding properties creating a public nuisance as defined in Chapter 8.24 due to smoke or odor emissions when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited. (Part Ord 6A-18, 2018)

8.04.040 Burning permits required.

A. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to kindle or maintain an outdoor fire without first obtaining a permit from the Fire Department. Such permit shall be subject to the rules and conditions adopted by the Department, and approved by the City Council, governing outside burning. Permit fee shall be established by the Altoona Common Council as set forth in Addendum “A” to Chapter 3.08 of Altoona Municipal Code.

B. The following outside burning shall be allowed without a permit, but shall be subject to restriction by the Department at any time:

1. Outdoor cooking;
2. Training for Fire Departments;
3. Recreational fires in a burning pit with a fire ring made of brick, concrete, rock or an approved metal device, not to exceed three feet by three feet or three feet in diameter. Material to be burned shall not exceed the outside of the fire ring. Fires shall not exceed two (2) feet in height. (Ord. 11B-98 (part), 1998)

C. Burning Piles.

1. Burning piles shall be no larger than four feet in any dimension, and no larger than three feet in height.
2. Burning of yard materials larger than one inch in diameter requires a permit signed by the Fire Chief or his/her designee specifically identifying the materials.

8.04.050 Violation—Penalty.

A. Any person who violates any of the provisions of this chapter shall, upon conviction, incur a penalty as provided in Chapter 1.08. (Ord. 11B-98 (part), 1998)

B. Liability. Supervising adult may be held civilly accountable for any and all damages and cost, including the Fire Department response, resulting from any fire. (Part 6A-18, 2018).