

CITY OF ALTOONA BURNING REGULATIONS

Chapter 8.04.010 – Open Burning/Permits

1. 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 Fire Department and approved by the City Council.
 - a. **Leave and Yard Waste Regulations:**
 - Permits are only good for one day
 - Permit allows the burning of leaves, grass, yard clippings, and brush up to one inch (1”) in diameter
 - Copy of the permit must be left at the Fire Department
 - Burning hours are 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday – Saturday with no burning on Sunday and holidays
 - Burning shall be under direct adult supervision
 - The individual obtaining the permit shall own the property or have the owner’s permission
 - Supervising adult may be held civilly accountable for any and all damages and cost, including the fire department response resulting from said fire
 - Burning pile shall be no larger than four feet by four feet (4’ x 4’)
 - When winds exceed ten miles per hour (10 mph), burning will cease
 - Burning materials shall be dry and smoke kept to a minimum
 - Fire suppression equipment shall be readily available
 - No burning within twenty-five feet (25’) of a structure or other combustible materials
 - No burning whatsoever on any boulevard or street right of way belonging to the City
 - Any complaint received in regard to excessive smoke may be cause for the extinguishment of the fire
 - **NO REFUSE BURNING (includes trash and paper products)**
 - b. **Burning Barrels:**
 - Shall follow all burning regulations as per the ordinance
 - Shall have one-quarter inch (1/4”) or smaller mesh cover
 - Material to be burned shall be yard waste only
 - Material being burned must not extend outside of the barrel
 - **NO REFUSE BURNING (includes trash and paper products)**
 - c. **Burning of Brush and Building Materials:**
 - Burning of brush larger than one inch (1”) in diameter or construction lumber requires a permit signed by the Fire Chief or his designee
 - Permits will be issued only after a site inspection is conducted by the Fire Chief or his designee
 - Direct on-site supervision of burn shall be by a competent adult
 - Supervision shall be from the start of the fire and continuous until the fire is completely extinguished
 - Burning materials shall be limited to what is listed on the permit
 - Supervising adult or contractor of a construction site may be held civilly accountable for any and all costs and damages, including Fire Department response resulting from said fire
2. The following outside burning shall be allowed without a permit, but shall be subject to restrictions adopted by the Fire Department and approved by the City Council:
 - a. **Recreational Fires (i.e. cooking and campfires)**
 - **No permit is needed for a recreational fire unless there is a burning ban in place.** If a burning ban is in place, you must obtain a burning permit for your recreational fire.
 - Recreational fires must be supervised by an adult
 - The fire may be in a burning pit with a fire ring. The fire ring shall be an approved metal device designed for outside fire, or brick, concrete, or rock not to exceed three feet by three feet (3’ x 3’) in diameter.
 - Material to be burned shall not go outside the fire ring
 - Recreational fires are exempt from the burning hours and days; **wind speed must be 10 mph or less**
 - **NO REFUSE BURNING (includes trash and paper products)**
3. The Fire Chief shall have the authority to ban open burning in the City when conditions are not safe. This action, if necessary, is purely for the safety of citizens and property. There are two levels of burning bans, general and total.
 - a. **General Ban**
 - This type of ban is issued on a day-to-day basis depending on wind and precipitation. Please call the Fire Department at 839-2970 to make sure weather conditions are favorable for a recreational fire.
 - Recreational fires are allowed with a permit
 - b. **Total Ban**
 - The Fire Chief shall place a ban on ALL outdoor fires. An outdoor fire is any flame out of doors (this includes smoking of tobacco products, recreational and cooking fires).
 - During such a ban, no person may kindle or maintain any open fire in the City
 - The public shall be notified of a Total Ban by formal notice to local media and shall remain in effect until media is advised that the ban is over