

TEXAS TOWNSHIP OUTDOOR BURNING REGULATIONS

Ordinance # 206, October 1, 2001

Permits for Outdoor Burning

- 1) A written burning permit must be obtained at the Township office prior to any open burning for disposal of natural waste. The written permit is valid until December of the calendar year. **Each day you wish to burn, you must also notify the Township either in person or by contacting us by phone at 375-1591.** After business office hours, call and dial extension #119 for a pre-recorded messages on burning conditions. Daily phone permits will be issued if weather conditions are favorable. Permits will not be issued on days of hazardous weather conditions or warnings of Ozone Action Alert as issued by Kalamazoo County Health Dept or Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.
- 2) Permits are not required for outdoor fires used for recreational purposes (see requirements below).
- 3) Michigan State Law prohibits open or outdoor burning of trees, logs, brush, and stumps within 1400 feet of a city or village limit. (MCL 336.1310(1)(c.)) You are responsible to make sure your fire is not in violation with this law. **Township Burning Permits do not authorize burning in violation of this law!!**

General Rules for Outdoor Open Burning

Open burning is permitted during favorable weather conditions and within the following guidelines:

- 1) Only leaves, untreated wood and brush that is less than 4 inches in diameter may be burned outside of a container. Paper products must be burned in a container with a lid that has openings no larger than 1/2 inch in diameter. The container must be masonry or metal not exceeding 55 gallons in size.
- 2) No burning of garbage, trash, plastic materials, tires, building materials such as plywood, chipboard, wolmanized lumber, shingles, vinyl siding scraps, etc. will be permitted at any time. Burning of structures for the purpose of demolition, burning of demolition materials or scrap building materials is also prohibited.
- 3) Persons requesting the permit must be the property owner or in legal control of the property where the fire is going to be.
- 4) All fires must be attended by a competent adult at all times until it is completely extinguished. A garden hose and water supply or other fire extinguishing equipment must be on hand while burning. **At no time will the fire be left burning or smoldering unattended!**
- 5) Outdoor fires will only be permitted during daylight hours (sunrise to sunset).
- 6) If smoke or odors from burning causes any disturbances to persons or motorists, or the fire is to be left unattended, the fire must be extinguished.

Residential Disposal Fires

Fires for disposal of leaves and brush are permitted during favorable weather conditions within these additional guidelines:

- 1) Fires must be a minimum distance of 30 feet from any building or other combustible materials, 10 feet from any public roadway, and 25 feet inside your property line.

Agricultural Disposal Fires

Fires for disposal of agricultural waste (burning off of fields, orchard cuttings, etc) are permitted during favorable weather conditions within these additional guidelines:

- 1) Agricultural burns shall be at least 100 feet from any structure, 30 feet from adjoining property line, and 100 feet of a public roadway. Conditions that may cause the fire to spread to within 50 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

Recreational Outdoor Open Fires

Outdoor recreational fires are permitted during favorable weather conditions within the following guidelines:

- 1) Recreational fires may be conducted without a permit, and at any time of the day or night. Only wood and charcoal may be used for recreational fires.
- 2) Recreational fires must be no larger than 5 feet in diameter and no more than 5 feet in height.
- 3) Recreational fires not contained in a barbecue pit must be a minimum of 30 feet from any structure or other combustible material, 30 feet inside your property line, and 10 feet from a public roadway.
- 4) If you are using a barbecue pit, it must be constructed at least 10 feet from the building or other combustible material, and 10 feet inside your property line.
- 5) All fires must be attended by a competent adult at all times until it is completely extinguished. A garden hose and water supply or other fire extinguishing equipment must be on hand while burning. ***At no time will the fire be left burning or smoldering unattended!***
- 6) Fires left unattended must be extinguished.

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YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH DAMAGE, NEGLIGENCE OR EXTINGUISHMENT DUE TO A FIRE THAT HAS GOTTEN OUT OF CONTROL, OR THAT MUST BE EXTINGUISHED DUE TO VIOLATIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE! Texas Charter Township Ordinance no. 206 – 10/1/01

VIOLATIONS OF AN ILLEGAL FIRE ARE CITED AS CIVIL INFRACTIONS!

CIVIL INFRACTION FINES ARE:	FIRST OFFENSE WITHIN A 3-YEAR PERIOD	\$ 75.00
	SECOND OFFENSE WITHIN A 3-YEAR PERIOD	\$150.00
	THIRD OFFENSE WITHIN A 3-YEAR PERIOD	\$325.00
	FORTH AND SUBSEQUENT OFFENSES	\$500.00

These are MINIMUM FINES. A first time fine or any subsequent fine of \$500.00 may be imposed if the infraction is deemed to be a blatant violation, the fire is a threat to life or property, or the property owner is uncooperative with Township Officials.

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PERMITS ARE VALID ONLY FOR THE PROPERTY LISTED AND THE PERSON WHOSE SIGNATURE APPEARS ON THE PERMIT APPLICATION.

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Complaint Procedures

All complaints about outdoor burning will be forwarded to the Texas Township Ordinance Enforcement Office, located at the Texas Township main offices, 7110 West "Q" Ave., phone 375-1591.

The complaint will be investigated by one of the Ordinance Enforcement Officers. The Officer will determine if a warning or citation is issued, and the fine amount to be levied.

If a hazardous condition exists, the Texas Township Fire Department will be notified. Costs incurred for extinguishing a fire, or damage caused as a result of a fire in violation of this ordinance will be the responsibility of the property owner where the fire originated.

Fines and costs can be paid at the Texas Township Violations Bureau located at the main Township Office, 7110 West 'Q' Ave.