



Can I Burn?

	Yes (with a permit)	No (under any circumstances)	Maybe (see footnotes)	Yes (Exempt)
Single Family Dwellings				
Can I burn prairie for maintenance? ¹			✓	
Can I burn "landscape waste" originating on my property?		✓		
Can I have a "recreational fire"? ²			✓	
Can I burn "refuse", "rubbish" or "garbage"?		✓		
Can I burn intact structures? ³			✓	
Can I burn demolished/damaged structures?		✓		
Can I burn within the confines of a barrel?		✓		
Are all manufactured fire pits an approved device?		✓		
Can I make my own recreational burning device? ⁴			✓	
Can I burn debris from clearing and grubbing for expansion? ⁵			✓	
Can I use a patio heater that runs on natural gas, propane, or alcohol?				✓

1. It is unlawful to burn landscape waste in these cities. However, you may apply for a Prairie Maintenance Variance Permit, but they will only be issued according to recommended prairie maintenance guidelines (once every 3 years).

2. Yes, but only in a device that meets Polk County Chapter V definitions of a "fireplace" or "grill".

3. Intact structures can only be burned if part of a bona-fide training activity, if proper asbestos remediation is complete, and if the the IDNR has been notified.

4. Yes, but only if it is constructed to meet Polk County Chapter V definitions of a "fireplace" or "grill".

5. It is unlawful to burn landscape waste produced in clearing, grubbing and construction activities in these cities. However, you may apply for a "Variance" Permit which involves a 2-week public notification and comment period for any residence within 1/4-mile of the burn site.

Polk County Chapter V, Article I, Section 5-2 Definitions:

"**Fireplace**", for the purpose of Article III, Section 5-7, means a structure, with an open recess at the base or a chimney or stack, with a grate for food preparation and provisions for under-fire air, for holding an outdoor fire off the ground.

"**Garbage**" means all solid and semi-solid putrescible and nonputrescible animal and vegetable wastes resulting from the handling, preparing, cooking, storing, and serving of food or of material intended for use as food, but excluding recognized industrial by-products.

"**Grill**", for the purpose of Article III, Section 5-7, means a cooking utensil with a grate for food preparation and provisions for under-fire air, for holding an outdoor fire off the ground.

"**Landscape waste**" means any vegetable or plant wastes, except garbage. The term includes trees, tree trimmings, branches, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery, and yard trimmings.

"**Recreational Fire**" means open fires burning untreated wood or charcoal, used solely for the non-commercial preparation of food or recreation.

"**Refuse**" means garbage, rubbish, and all other putrescible and nonputrescible wastes, except sewage and water-carried trade wastes.

"**Rubbish**" means all waste materials of nonputrescible nature.

"**Variance**" means a temporary waiver from rules, regulations or standards governing the quality, nature, duration or extent of emissions granted by the Health Officer for a specified period of time.