



Examples of legal devices used for burning in the City of Urbandale.



Propane and natural gas fire pit or bowl devices are allowed as long as all manufacturers' instructions and recommendations are followed.



Propane and natural gas grills are allowed as long as all manufacturers' instructions and recommendations are followed. Charcoal or any cooking devices that produce ash or embers are not allowed to be used or stored within 20 feet of multi-story buildings like apartments and condominiums.

Learn More About Safety:

www.urbandale.org - UFD website

www.nfpa.org - National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

www.homefiresprinkler.org - Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition

www.usfa.dhs.gov - United States Fire Administration (USFA)

www.bereadyiowa.org - IA Homeland Security and Emergency Management

www.dps.state.ia.us/fm/ - Iowa State Fire Marshal



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No Open Burning in the City of Urbandale

Information regarding the rules and regulations of open burning, grill usage, and why open burning is not allowed in the City of Urbandale.



City of Urbandale Open Burning Policy:

The Urbandale Fire Department would like to remind Urbandale residents that under an ordinance enacted by the Polk County Board of Health and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, there is no open burning allowed within the City of Urbandale.

This includes the Dallas County portion of Urbandale.

Under this ordinance bon fires, leaf burning, and any other open wood or debris burning are deemed illegal.



Outdoor Fireplaces & Grills

The prohibition to open burning shall not apply to outdoor fireplaces or grills burning untreated wood or charcoal, used solely for the non-commercial preparation of food or recreation. Such outdoor fireplaces or grills shall not be used for the burning of refuse, rubbish, or garbage.

"Fireplace", for the purpose of this regulation 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.

"Grill", for the purpose of this regulation, means a cooking utensil with a grate for food preparation and provisions for under-fire air, for holding an outdoor fire off the ground."

Natural gas or propane devices that are NOT used to burn any other combustible materials are allowed.



Device Provisions:

- Minimum recommended 15 feet clearance from structures and combustible materials.
- Device must hold the fire up off the ground and be equipped with a grate for food preparation.
- Device for the fire should be no larger than 3 feet in diameter.
- There should be a means present to be able to extinguish the fire.
- All fires must be watched until completely extinguished.

There shall be no open burning of yard waste (leaves, grass, etc.) refuse, trash, rubbish, or garbage.



Multi-Family Buildings

No barbecue grills or other devices which produce ashes or embers shall be operated or stored within twenty (20) feet of multi-story buildings such as Apartment buildings and Condominiums.

A maximum of one 20-pound propane cylinder attached to the cooking device shall be allowed. Exception: One- and two-family dwellings and townhomes. Cooking devices and/or the propane cylinders shall not be stored inside the living unit of Apartment Buildings and/or Condominiums.



Department of Natural Resources

According to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, burning waste and trash releases toxic chemicals into the air.

At one time, open burning was considered an "easy and cheap way to dispose of waste", however, now it can threaten the health and environment considerably.

This is because the products used today by consumers have several chemicals in their make-up that were not being used 50-60 years ago.

If you have any further questions about open burning, please contact the Urbandale Fire Department at 278-3970.

