



Can I Burn?

	Yes (with a permit)	No (under any circumstances)	Maybe (see footnotes)	Yes (Exempt)
Multiple Family Dwellings				
Can I burn prairie for maintenance? ¹			✓	
Can I burn "landscape waste" originating on my property?		✓		
Can I have a recreational bonfire? ²			✓	
Can I have a "recreational fire"?				✓
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? ⁴			✓	
Can I make my own recreational burning device? ⁵			✓	
Can I burn debris from clearing and grubbing for expansion? ⁶			✓	
Can I use a patio heater that runs on natural gas, propane, or alcohol?				✓

1. It is unlawful to burn landscape waste from multiple dwellings containing two or more apartment units. However, if the site is normally open to the general public you may apply for a prairie maintenance permit, but it will only be issued according to recommended prairie maintenance guidelines (once every 3 years).

2. Yes, if there is common area or park normally opened to the general public.

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, unless prohibited by local city ordinance.

5. Yes, unless prohibited by local city ordinance.

6. Yes, you can apply for a clearing and grubbing permit. However, if there is any building inhabited by other than the landowner or tenant conducting the open burn within 1/4-mile, you must apply for a variance permit. The "variance" permit process 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:

"**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.

"**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.