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Altoona Fire Department

It is permitted within the City of Altoona to maintain a fire with untreated wood for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes. **It is NOT permitted to burn rubbish/refuse which includes yard waste, tires, garbage or plastics.**

City Ordinance 105.05 Open Burning Restricted

No person shall allow, cause or permit open burning of combustible materials where the products of combustion are emitted into the open air without passing through a chimney or stack, except as provided in Chapter 161 of the Code of Ordinance.

City Ordinance 161.09 Open Burning and Recreational Fires

Section 307.1 of the International Fire Code shall be amended by adding the following to the end of the section: There shall be no open burning in the City of Altoona Corporate Limits without prior approval of Polk County Air and Waste Management Department and the Fire Chief.

Section 307 Open Burning, Recreational Fires and Portable Outdoor Fireplaces of the IFC

- 307.1 General: A person shall not kindle or maintain or authorize to be kindled or maintained any open burning unless conducted and approved in accordance with Sections 307.1.1 through 307.5.
- 307.3 Extinguishment Authority: When open burning creates or adds to a hazardous situation, or a required permit for open burning has not been obtained, the Fire Code Official is authorized to order the extinguishment of the open burning operation.
- 307.4 Location: The location for open burning shall not be less than 50' from any structure, and provision shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 50' of any structure. Exceptions: 1. Fires in approved containers that are not less than 15 feet from a structure 2. The minimum required distance from a structure shall be 25' where the pile size is 3' or less in diameter and 2' or less in height.
- 307.4.1 Bonfires: A bonfire shall not be conducted within 50' of a structure or combustible material unless the fire is contained in a pit. Conditions which could cause a fire spread within 50' of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.
- 307.4.2 Recreational Fires: Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25' of a structure or combustible material. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25' of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.
- 307.4.3 Portable Outdoor Fireplace: Portable outdoor fireplaces shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall not be operated within 15' of a structure or combustible material. Exception: Portable outdoor fireplaces used at one and two family dwellings
- 307.5 Attendance: Open burning, bonfires, recreational fires and use of portable outdoor fireplaces shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher complying with Section 906 with a minimum 4-A rating or other approved on site fire extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hoe or water truck shall be available for immediate utilization.

Charcoal burners, other open-flame cooking devices, and other devices that produce ashes or embers shall not be operated on balconies or within 20' of combustible construction. LP-gas cooking devices having one LP-gas container with a water capacity not greater than 20 lbs. may be operated per manufacturer's instructions or within 10' of any structure.

Attendance

Fires shall be constantly attended by a responsible adult until the fire is fully extinguished. The attendant shall have access and knowledge for approved fire extinguishing equipment such as a portable fire extinguisher, garden hose, dirt, or sand.

To request a Burn Permit Application through Polk County Air Quality Division: Polk County Public Works Department – Air Quality Division, 5885 NE 14th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50313-1202.