



GUIDANCE ON OUTDOOR FIRES

IMPORTANT! Outdoor fires not complying with these requirements shall be ordered extinguished by the Fire Official, and can result in fines and the issuance of a citation.

Chimineas, Portable Outdoor Fireplaces, and Portable Outdoor Fire Pits

Allowed provided all of the following conditions are met:

1. The device is used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
2. The device's designed fuel loading is not exceeded.
3. Rubbish or yard waste is not being burned.
4. The fire is constantly attended until it is completely extinguished.
5. Some means of immediate extinguishment is kept close at hand. Acceptable means of extinguishment include a garden hose, a fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating, or dirt or sand with some means of application.
6. For non-residential occupancies and apartment buildings having three or more units, the device must be at least 15 feet away from structures and combustible materials.

Recreational Fires (i.e. campfires)

Allowed provided all of the following conditions are met:

1. The fuel area must be 3 feet or less in diameter, and 2 feet or less in height
2. Rubbish or yard waste is not being burned.
3. The fire is at least 25 feet away from structures and combustible materials.
4. Conditions are not conducive to fire spread (such as extremely dry weather or high winds).
5. The fire is constantly attended until it is completely extinguished.
6. Some means of immediate extinguishment is kept close at hand. Acceptable means of extinguishment include a garden hose, a fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating, or dirt or sand with some means of application.

Burn Barrels

Allowed provided all of the following conditions are met:

1. Rubbish or yard waste is not being burned.
2. The fire is at least 25 feet away from structures and combustible materials.
3. Conditions are not conducive to fire spread (such as extremely dry weather or high winds).
4. The fire is constantly attended until it is completely extinguished.
5. Some means of immediate extinguishment is kept close at hand. Acceptable means of Extinguishment include a garden hose, a fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating, or dirt or sand with some means of application.

Bonfires and Open Burning

Outdoor fires having a fuel area greater than 3 feet in diameter or 2 feet in height are not allowed unless permits are obtained from both the Mt. Lebanon Fire Department and the Allegheny County Health Department.

*Any questions regarding outdoor fires please call the Mt. Lebanon Fire Department at
412-343-3402.*

COUNTY GUIDANCE ON OUTDOOR FIRES

Allegheny County Health Department Open Burning Regulation **FACT SHEET**

- Open burning may only be conducted in accordance with ACHD Article XXI §2105.50 “Open Burning” (full text: <http://www.achd.net/air/pubs/pdf/Article21.pdf>) Municipal ordinances may only be equal to or more stringent than ACHD regulations.
- No person shall conduct, or allow to be conducted, the open burning of any material, except where the Department has issued an open burning permit, or where the open burning is conducted in accordance to Article XXI §2105.50 and is done in a manner which contributes a negligible amount of air contaminants.
- No material other than clean wood, propane, or natural gas may be open burned EXCEPT for:
 - o Commercially available fire logs, paraffin logs, or wood pellets;
 - o Paper or commercial smokeless fire starters in order to start a fire;
 - o Charcoal for the preparation of food only.
- Fires may be no larger than 3’ wide by 3’ long by 2’ high.
- Fires must be at least 15 feet from the nearest neighbor’s dwelling or inhabited area, including:
 - o Property line
 - o Roadway
 - o Sidewalk
 - o Public access area
- Wood burning activities are prohibited on Air Quality Action days, with the exception of burning for the commercial preparation of food
 - o Subscribe to receive email, text, or smart phone app notifications of burn ban days at www.alleghenycounty.us/alerts
- Burning may be prohibited or reduced if it is considered a nuisance, based on the following criteria:
 - o The severity of the amount of air pollutants;
 - o The duration or frequency of open burning;
 - o The topography of the surroundings;
 - o The meteorological conditions.
- Open burning permits are available for ceremonies fostering of agriculture, abatement of a public health hazard, and firefighting instruction; however, all permitted open burning is prohibited on Air Quality Action Days.
 - o Contact ACHD at (412) 578-7963 for more information

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