

Before You Light It...

Know the City of Findlay's Open Burning Regulations



During warmer weather our attention turns to outdoor recreation and entertainment, some of which may include an outdoor recreational fire. In short, a recreational fire is an outdoor fire, burning materials other than rubbish, and has a total fuel area of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height. It can be used for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.

The City of Findlay does allow recreational type fires and this pamphlet will provide some general guidelines.

Location and Size

The minimum distance from a structure or combustible material shall be 15 feet if the fire is contained in an approved container. A Chiminea, metal ring, stone/brick surrounds, outdoor fireplace, or a metal container with a wire mesh screen are examples of approved containers. Your recreational fire can be no larger than 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height.

If no approved containment is utilized, the minimum distance from a structure or combustible material shall be 25 feet where the pile size is 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

Material to burn

Only clean dry fire wood can be used. Do not use yard waste, trash or rubbish.

Attendance & Restricted Hours

Recreational fires shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A fire extinguisher, garden hose, water barrel, dirt or sand shall be available for immediate utilization.

Recreational fires shall be conducted only during the hours of 7:00AM and be extinguished by 12:01AM.

Additional Information

Any open burning or recreational fire that is larger than what is listed above would require a permit from the Findlay Fire Department.

DO NOT burn tree trimmings, yard waste, leaves, and grass, trash or construction materials.

Despite all precautions being taken, it would be at the discretion of the Findlay Fire Department to extinguish or have extinguished any fire that does not fall within these guidelines or that of which could be considered a nuisance.

Frequently, our fire department receives telephone calls requesting information on open burning. Open burning regulations are established by Ohio Administrative Code and enforced by the Findlay Fire Department. In general, open burning is more restrictive within the City of Findlay but can be enforced within a 1 mile radius of the city limits.

Below are examples of approved containers for open burning. Other containment methods, such as a built-in pit or fire ring may also be approved:



CHIMINEA



OUTDOOR FIRE PLACE



FIRE PIT

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to be cooking food to have a recreational fire?

NO- Campfires and outdoor fireplace equipment, whether for cooking food, pleasure, religious, ceremonial, warmth, recreational, or similar purposes are allowed without notification to or permission from the Findlay Fire Department.

Do I need a permit for a recreational fire?

NO- Only for fires with a fuel area larger than three feet in diameter but no more than five feet in diameter is permitted with prior notification to the Findlay Fire Department.

A bonfire shall not be conducted within fifty feet (50' or 15,240 mm) of a structure or combustible material unless the fire is contained in a barbecue pit. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within fifty feet (50' or 15,240 mm) of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition

What materials can never be burned?

- materials containing rubber, grease, and asphalt or made from petroleum, such as tires, cars and auto parts, plastics, or plastic-coated wire;
- garbage--any wastes created in the process of handling, preparing, cooking, or consumption of food;
- dead animals

If my neighbor complains, will the Fire Department investigate?

YES. The Fire Department will investigate all complaints of open burning. Provided the fire complies with the requirements of the Ohio Administrative Code and Ohio EPA it will be permitted to burn. The Fire Department will prohibit open burning that is offensive or objectionable due to smoke or odor emissions when atmospheric conditions make such fires hazardous or endangering to persons.

Could I be cited for my fire?

YES. If you fail to follow the regulations established by the Ohio Administrative Code you could be cited. The Findlay Fire Department provides education and will issue a warning for the first violation. The Findlay Police Department will be notified of repeat offenders for follow-up enforcement.

This pamphlet is just a general guideline. For further information see Article 1511.06 of the City of Findlay Codified Ordinances, the Ohio Administrative Code or contact the Findlay Fire Department at 419-424-7131.

Contact Information
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