OPEN BURNING

PURPOSE

Open burning can present a significant fire hazard when fires are mishandled. For this reason Fire Code places requirements on how they are conducted. This policy outlines the requirements of the fire code for open burning within the City of Inver Grove Heights.

DEFINITIONS

BONFIRE. An outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes. [MSFC 302.1]

CODE OFFICIAL is the Fire Marshal or their authorized representatives including but not limited to the Fire Chief, and fire/police officers in charge of a response to a burning occurrence.

OPEN BURNING. The burning of materials wherein products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber. Open burning does not include road flares, smudge pots and similar devices associated with safety or occupational uses typically considered open flames or recreational fires. For the purpose of this definition, a chamber shall be regarded as enclosed when, during the time combustion occurs, only apertures, ducts, stacks, flues or chimneys necessary to provide combustion air and permit the escape of exhaust gas are open. [MSFC 302.1]

RECREATIONAL FIRE. An outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, barbeque grill or barbeque pit and has a total fuel area of 3 feet (914 mm) or less in diameter and 2 feet (610 mm) or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes. Note: The requirements for recreational fires are handled in a separate policy. This definition is provided for informational purposes only.

PERMITS REQUIRED

A permit is required from the City of Inver Grove Heights for all open burning. The City Fire Marshal also has the authority to issue permits required by the State. When a permit is also required by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) the City permit will be issued on the DNR form.

Permit applications may be obtained on-line, at the Fire Department window at City Hall and from the Fire Marshal by appointment.

PERMIT FEES [IGH 1015.01]

Open Burning for the development and maintenance of land and rights of way.	$0.50 / cu. yd. , $100 minimum
All other types of open burning i.e. ground thawing, accepted agricultural practices.	$25 each occurrence

PERMIT VALIDITY

An Open Burning Permit is valid for the period of time indicated on the permit.

The permit is not transferable to another person or property. A single permit may not be used across multiple properties.

Open Burning Permits are void during conditions with a fire danger rating of "Extreme" issued by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. It is the permitee's responsibility to check current conditions. Daily information can be found on the DNR web site at www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/firerating_restrictions.html

Open Burning Permits are void during open burning bans issued by the Inver Grove Heights Fire Marshal or Fire Chief. Should a local ban be necessary information will be posted on the City web site at www.invergroveheights.org

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR FIRE SAFETY - Open Burning

Open burning shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. [MSFC 307.5]

A clean burning device must be used to start fire. (DNR)

DO NOT USE FLAMMABLE OR COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS OF ANY KIND TO START YOUR FIRE.

The location for open burning shall not be less than 50 feet (15 240 mm) from any structure, and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 50 feet (15 240 mm) of any structure. Exceptions: 1. Fires in approved containers that are not less than 15 feet (4572 mm) from a structure. 2. The minimum required distance from a structure shall be 25 feet (7620 mm) where the pile size is 3 feet (914 mm) or less in diameter and 2 feet (610 mm) or less in height.

A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating or other approved onsite fire-extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck, shall be available for immediate utilization. [MSFC 307.5]

NUISANCE, HAZARDOUS OR OBJECTIONABLE FIRES

The fire code official is authorized to order the extinguishment by the permit holder, another person responsible or the fire department of open burning that creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation. [MSFC 307.3]

Keep in mind that not everyone enjoys the smell of smoke. Open burning is a privilege allowed you by your community. Privileges can be taken away if users do not act responsibly. Before starting your fire, check to see if your neighbors have their windows open, clothes drying outside, or other conditions that would make your fire a nuisance. Keep your fire burning hot and manage your fire so the minimum amount of smoke possible is produced. Watch for flying embers and where smoke is going. Put your fire out before it becomes a nuisance.