

## Recreational Fires

A recreational fire means cooking fires, campfires, and bonfires using charcoal or firewood that occur on private property for cooking, pleasure, or ceremonial purposes.



**The following Q&A has key information to residences in Oshtemo Township regarding recreational fires.**

### **Q – Where can I place my recreational fire?**

A – Recreational fires must be placed at least twenty-five (25) feet from any structure or flammable material unless contained in a barbecue pit, charcoal/gas grills, or outdoor fireplace, see below.

### **Q – Where can I place my barbecue pit, charcoal grill, or outdoor fireplace?**

A – Barbecue pits, charcoal grills, and outdoor fireplaces outside of buildings shall not be located within ten (10) feet of combustible walls or roofs or other combustible material.

## Open Burning

Open burning is defined as the burning of unwanted materials such as trees, brush, leaves, grass, and other debris where smoke and other emissions are released directly into the air.

**The following Q&A has key information to residences in Oshtemo Township regarding regulations pertaining to open burning.**

### **Q – Is open burning allowed in Oshtemo Charter Township?**

A – As long as a burn permit is obtained from the Oshtemo Fire Department, open burning is permitted within the Township. To get a burn permit call 269-375-0487 or apply through the Township Website. Please note that open burns differ from recreational fires.

### **Q – Where can I open burn on my property?**

A – Open burning cannot be conducted within fifty (50) feet of any structure or other combustible material. This distance from any structure or combustible material can be reduced to twenty-five (25) feet when the size of the pile to be burned is three (3) feet or less in diameter and two (2) feet or less in height.

### **Q- How large can an open burn be?**

A - The open burn cannot exceed twelve (12) feet in diameter and six (6) feet in height.

### **Q – Is there anything I am not allowed to burn in an open burn?**

A – The following materials are not allowed to be burned through open burning: materials containing paper products, any building material, lumber or lumber products, or any materials the Environmental Protection Agency restricts, such as roofing materials.

### **Q – Can I use a burn barrel for household waste?**

A – Waste burners are allowed in the Township; however, they must be constructed out of noncombustible masonry or metal, no larger than fifty-five (55) US gallons or 7.35 cubic feet, contain no openings larger than one-half square inch, and must have a cover or spark arrester constructed of iron, heavy wire, or other non-combustible material with openings no larger than one-half inch. In other words, burn barrels with no covering are not allowed. Waste burners should not be located within fifteen (15) feet of walls, roofs, or other combustible materials, building openings, or property lines.

Note: Please refer to the Burning Ordinance Article 256.00 for other information about fires in Oshtemo Charter Township. For a link to Article 256.00, see here: <https://online.encodeplus.com/regs/oshtemo-mi/doc-viewer.aspx?secid=1793#secid-712>.