



INFORMATION ON RECREATIONAL FIRES AND OPEN BURNING

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

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 for residents of Oshtemo Charter Township regarding recreational fires and open burning..

Where can I place my recreational fire?

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

Where can I place my barbecue pit, charcoal / gas grill, or outdoor fireplace?

Barbecue pits, charcoal / gas grills, and outdoor fireplaces outside of buildings shall not be located within 10' of combustible walls, roofs, or other combustible materials.

Is open burning allowed in Oshtemo Charter Township? Do I need to get a permit?

Yes, open burning is allowed in Oshtemo Charter Township provided that a burn permit is obtained from the Oshtemo Fire Department prior to burning. Burn permits may be obtained on our website:

<https://www.oshtemo.org/Departments/Fire-Department/Burn-Permits>

Please note that open burning is different from a recreational fire.

Where can I open burn on my property?

Open burning cannot be conducted within 50' of any structure or other combustible material. This distance from any structure or combustible material can be reduced to 25' when the size of the pile to be burned is 3' or less in diameter and 2' or less in height.

How large can an open burn be?

The open burn cannot exceed 12' in diameter and 6' in height.

Is there anything I am not allowed to burn in an open burn?

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.

Can I use a burn barrel for household waste?

Waste burners are allowed in the Township; however, they must be constructed out of noncombustible masonry or metal, be no larger than 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 without coverings are not allowed. Waste burners should not be located within 15' of walls, roofs, or other combustible materials, building openings, or property lines.

Note: Please refer to the Burning Ordinance for other information about fires in Oshtemo Charter Township, Section 256.00. <https://oshtemo.org/About-Oshtemo/General-Zoning-Ordinances/>