



Mount Gilead Fire Department Memo

Chief 101 – Don Staiger
Home - 419-947-5648
Cell - 419-295-1387
Station - 419-946-2551
e-mail – MGFIRE@Bright.net

Ohio Open Burning Regulations

Before You Light It...Know Ohio's Open Burning Regulations

When you burn trash outdoors, the potential cost to your health, your neighbors, and your environment for exceeds the price of adequate collection services. Protect yourself, your neighbor, and your wallet by knowing the rules for what can burn and where. And remember, there are alternatives to open burning.

What does Ohio EPA consider "open burning"?

You are open burning any time you light an outdoor fire. In the past, many materials – including leaves, tree trimmings, tires and construction debris – were routinely burned outdoors.

Why do Ohio laws prohibit so many kinds of open burning?

Depending upon the material being burned, open fires can release many kinds of toxic fumes. Leaves and plant materials send aloft millions of spores when they catch fire, causing many people with allergies to have difficulty breathing. The pollutants released by open burning also makes it more difficult to attain, or maintain, health-based air quality standards, especially in or near the major metropolitan centers. The gasses released by open burning can also harm neighboring buildings by corroding metal siding and damaging paint. Besides burning is not a very efficient way to get rid of wastes since open fires do not get hot enough to burn the materials completely.

What materials can NEVER be burned?

- Some materials may not be burned anywhere in the state at any time. These are: materials containing rubber, grease, and asphalt or made from petroleum, such as tires, cars and auto parts, plastics, or plastic-coated wire;
- Garbage – any waste created in the process of handling, preparing, or consuming of food; and
- Dead animals.

Where is Burning Illegal?

With a few exceptions, open burning is not permitted in a restricted area.

Restricted areas include areas:

- Within the boundaries of any municipal corporation;
- Within corporation limits and a 1,000-foot zone outside any municipal corporation having a population of 1,000 to 10,000 and;
- Within corporation limits and a one-mile zone outside any municipal corporation with a population more than 10,000.

What types of open burning are permitted anywhere?

A few types of open burning are permitted everywhere, even in restricted areas. Fires must be kept to a minimum size for their intended purpose, and shall not be used for waste disposal purposes.

ODNR Division of Forestry law

ORC 1503.18 bans outdoor burning statewide in unincorporated areas in the spring and fall between the hours of 6:00am and 6:00 pm. This is to help prevent wildfires, all open burning and prescribed fires are prohibited in Ohio in the months of March, April, May, October and November, between the hours of 6:00 am and 6:00 pm.

Within a Restricted Area

Permitted burning includes;

- cooking for human consumption (barbecues, campfires, cookouts);
 - wood burning camp fires required a permits inside the Village of Mt. Gilead
- heating tar;
- welding and acetylene torches;
- smudge pots and similar occupational needs; and
- heating for warmth of outdoor workers and strikers. Use common sense using only clean wood and restrict the size of the fire so it can be contained in a 55-gallon drum.

Outside a Restricted Area

Outside a restricted area, the following types of waste generated on the premises can be burned:

- Agricultural wastes: material generated by crop, horticultural, or livestock production practices. This includes fence posts, but not buildings.
- Landscape wastes: plant matter such as tree trimmings, branches, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery, yard trimmings, and crop residues.
- Land-clearing wastes: plant matter that is removed when land is cleared for residential, commercial, or industrial development. This material may be burned only under certain circumstances and WITH PRIOR WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM THE OHIO EPA.
- Residential wastes such as wood or paper products that are generated by one-, two-, or three-family residences. Garbage may ***not*** be open burned at any time.

However, no open burning can take place within, 1,000 feet of an inhabited building located off the property where the fire is set, nor can the fire obscure visibility for roadways, railroad tracks, or air fields.

No wastes generated off the premises may be burned. For example, a tree-trimming contractor may not haul branches and limbs to another site to burn them.

Open burning is prohibited when air pollution warnings, alerts, or emergencies are in effect.

Does Ohio EPA ever allow exception to the rules?

Under certain circumstances, yes. However, to burn a prohibited material or set a fire in a restricted area, YOU MUST RECEIVE WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM THE OHIO EPA.

Can a community enact local ordinances to allow open burning?

Local ordinances cannot be less strict than the state law described here. They can be more strict, however.

What will happen to me if I'm caught illegally open burning?

Ohio EPA has the legal authority to enforce the open burning laws. Violations can result in substantial penalties. If you have any questions, or would like to report a suspected open burning incident, contact your Ohio EPA district office or your local air pollution control agency.

For a complete copy of Ohio's open burning regulations, contact your local fire department or web sites;

www.epa.state.oh.us/dapc/general/openburning.html or call 614-644-2270

www.ohiodnr.com/forestry or call 1-877-247-8733