

The City of Muskegon Heights has adopted the 2012 edition of the International Fire Code within the code it outlines the provision for open burning/recreational fires in Muskegon Heights.

Open burning for any purpose other than recreational is prohibited within the City of Muskegon Heights and most of the Metro Muskegon area (majority of the City of Muskegon and Norton Shores).

In order to have an allowable recreation fire in the City of Muskegon Heights you must comply with the sections of the 2012 International Fire Code listed below. Additionally your fire must not pose any other public nuisance such as smoke blowing into neighbors' homes or interfering with the health and safety of others.

2012 International Fire Code Sections:

Definitions:

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, smudgepots and similar devices associated with safety or occupational uses typically considered open flames, *recreational fires* or use of portable outdoor fireplaces. 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.

- Open burning is any burning that takes place in an unenclosed space. Examples include burning of leaves or grass clippings, burning construction debris and fires built on the ground for warmth in cold weather.

RECREATIONAL FIRE. An outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, portable 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.**

- This kind of fire includes ordinary campfires and other small fires used for the activities listed.

Compliance

[A] 105.6.30 Open burning. An operational permit is required for the kindling or maintaining of an open fire or a fire on any public street, alley, road, or other public or private ground. Instructions and stipulations of the permit shall be adhered to.

Exception: *Recreational fires.*

307.4.2 Recreational fires. *Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet (7620 mm) of a structure or combustible material.* Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet (7620 mm) of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

- Recreational fires are usually fairly small, but can still represent a significant fire hazard if the area in which they are kindled is not kept free of combustible trash and debris. Basic fire safety practices

followed by campers make good guidelines. No fire should ever be kindled in a location where it would endanger structures or would be likely to ignite combustible materials close by.

307.4.3 Portable outdoor fireplaces. Portable outdoor fireplaces shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall not be operated within 15 feet (3048 mm) of a structure or combustible material.

307.5 Attendance. *Open burning, bonfires, recreational fire* and use of portable outdoor fireplaces **shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished.** A **minimum of one portable fire extinguisher** complying with Section 906 with a minimum 4-A rating or other *approved* on-site fire-extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck, shall be available for immediate utilization