

Penn Township Open Burn Ordinance Fact Sheet

Permitted Hours of Burning: Sunrise to Sunset
(*adult supervision Must be present at all times & fires must remain a minimum of 20ft from any structure or property line*)

Non-Permitted Hours of Burning: after dark, on Sundays, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day and when a Burn Ban has been placed into effect by the State, County or Township. (*outdoor fireplaces and grills used solely for food preparation purposes are exempt*)

Residential outdoor burning is limited to: yard waste, clearing and grubbing waste, domestic refuse, food cooking purposes, and recreational/ceremonial purposes.

- **Yard Waste** - leaves, grass clippings, garden residue, tree trimmings, chipped shrubbery & other vegetative materials
- **Clearing/Grubbing Waste** - trees, shrubs, and other native vegetation cleared from land during or prior to the process of construction (*does not include demolition wastes and dirt laden roots*)
- **Domestic Refuse** - waste which is generated from a family dwelling (*does not include appliances, demolition waste, furniture, mattresses or box springs, paint, solvents, tires, carpet or treated wood*)

Recreational fires (such as *bonfires/campfires*) using natural, untreated wood & containing a fuel source of no more than 18 cubic feet are permitted at any time so long as they comply with all other provisions of the 2022-02 Open Burn Ordinance. Recreational fires **must not be left unattended and must be extinguished** at the end of the recreational activity. Any recreational fire of a size larger than stated above will require prior approval from a Duly Authorized Agent.

- **Duly Authorized Agent** - a Supervisor, the Zoning & Codes Officer, Fire Marshal, Fire Department Chief or any other Township official authorized to enforce the provision

FIRES SHOULD NEVER BE LEFT UNATTENDED

Domestic Refuse Burning must be controlled and confined in a non-combustible container that is in good repair and covered with a wire screen of one-half inch or smaller mesh. It is also recommended to have a water supply (*hose*) or equal extinguishing agent available throughout the duration of burning. Yard Waste and Clearing/Grubbing waste does not require to be confined to a non-combustible container.

Special Circumstances with Controlled Burns

In the event that it is necessary to have an unconstrained fire of any size or at times other than permitted by the Open Burn Ordinance, special permission must be obtained in advance from a Duly Authorized Agent.

- Residents must also provide notice of all unconstrained burning to Cumberland County Communications Control Center at (717) 243-4121 prior to the ignition of the fire and when the burning has been completed.

Responsibilities & Penalties

It is a violation for any person to allow any fire to burn under adverse weather conditions or unsupervised, or otherwise in an unsafe manner. Any such fire may be extinguished by a Duly Authorized Agent immediately. Whenever a Duly Authorized Agent finds that open burning is occurring within the Township (other than those exceptions listed) the agent may require the owner/operator to take corrective action in a manner satisfactory to the Township OR the agent may require the owner/operator to allow access to the property by a third party able to take such action.

Violations of the Open Burning Ordinance or a burn ban can result in fines and/or penalties. Additionally, individuals may be liable for any/all damage caused by the fire, to include the cost of the response to extinguish the fire.

Copies of the 2022-02 Open Burn Ordinance can be found on the Township website or can be requested through the Township Office.