

CHAPTER 3

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS AGAINST FIRE

SECTION 301 GENERAL

301.1 Scope. The provisions of this chapter shall govern the occupancy and maintenance of all structures and premises for precautions against fire and the spread of fire.

301.2 Permits. Permits shall be required as set forth in Section 105.6 for the activities or uses regulated by Sections 306, 307, 308.3, 308.4, 308.5 and 315.

SECTION 302 DEFINITIONS

302.1 Definitions. The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this chapter and as used elsewhere in this code, have the meanings shown herein.

BONFIRE. An outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes.

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 or similar devices associated with safety or occupational uses typically considered open flames or recreational fires. 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.

RECREATIONAL FIRE. An outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, 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 (610mm) or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.

SECTION 307 OPEN BURNING AND RECREATIONAL FIRES

307.1 General. A person shall not kindle or maintain or authorize to be kindled any open burning unless conducted and approved in accordance with this section. Fire started and attended by City Fire Department personnel are allowed.

307.2 Permit required. A permit shall be obtained from the fire code official in accordance with Section 105.6 prior to kindling a fire for recognized silvicultural or range or wildlife management practices, prevention or control of disease or pests, or a bonfire. Application for such approval shall only be presented by and permits issued to the owner of the land upon which the fire is to be kindled.

307.2.1 Authorization. Where required by state or local law or regulations, open burning shall only be permitted with prior approval from the state or local air and water quality management authority, provided that all conditions specified in the authorization are followed.

307.3 Extinguishment authority. The fire code official is authorized to order the extinguishment by the permit holder, another person responsible or the fire department of open burning that creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation.

307.3.1 Hazardous or objectionable open burning. No hazardous or objectionable open burning shall be permitted. In making the determination as to whether a fire is hazardous or objectionable, police, fire personnel or code compliance officers shall make reasonable determination considering such factors as safety, the presence of a responsible person monitoring the fire, type of materials being burned, the emission of dense smoke or objectionable odor, wind/weather conditions that may impact other persons or the safety of the fire. In no event shall any fire be allowed to exceed 3 feet diameter by 2 feet high.

307.4 Location. The location for open burning shall be a safe distance from any structure or combustible surface. Fire pits and other commercially manufactured portable fireplaces must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines. These devices are not allowed on combustible surfaces.

The burning of open fires of any combustible materials included, but not limited to, automotive equipment or parts, construction materials, debris, garbage, leaves, brush landscape waste, industrial wastes, oil, paints, paper, petroleum products, plastic, rags, refuse, lumber; wood products other than seasoned firewood or charcoal within the City shall be prohibited.

307.4.1 Bonfires. A bonfire shall not be conducted within 50 feet (15 240mm) of a structure or combustible material unless the fire is contained in a barbeque pit. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 50 feet (15 240 mm) of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

307.5 Attendance. Open burning, bonfires or recreational fires 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.