

Outdoor Burning Guide

For Residents of the City of Warren

08/21/2017

Outdoor Burning Ordinance No. 1859

General Requirements

During warmer weather, our attention turns to outdoor recreation and entertainment, some of which may include an outdoor recreational fire.

- Only charcoal or clean, dry, seasoned wood may be burned.
- Fires may not be ignited using incendiary, flammable, or combustible

If you suspect a non-emergency violation of the open burning regulations, please call City of Warren Code Enforcement at 814-723-6300, ext. 116 or the City of Warren Police Department at 814-723-2700 to report the violation. If a complaint is received, despite all precautions being taken, City Officials will respond. The Code Official, Fire Chief, Police Chief, and their designees are authorized to order the extinguishment of any outdoor burning that is conducted contrary to the provisions of the Outdoor Burning Ordinance No. 1859.

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While the City of Warren affords its residents the opportunity to conduct certain types of outdoor burning for their pleasure, regulations that protect the public safety and minimize the interference with the use and enjoyment of neighboring and affected properties are enforced under the provisions of the Outdoor Burning Ordinance No. 1859.

- liquid not manufactured for such purpose.
- Fires must be constantly attended by an adult until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher or other fire extinguishing equipment such as a filled water barrel, garden hose, or water truck must be available for immediate use.
- Any outdoor fireplace, barbeque grill, or fuel burning appliance must be utilized in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Prohibited Activities

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Open burning for the purpose of destruction of refuse, salvage operations and the disposal of construction materials is prohibited. This includes the burning of materials such as garbage, rubbish, debris, and other waste materials of any type, including, but not limited to plastics, rubber, roofing, siding, yard waste, leaves, and all other materials intended for disposal.

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It is unlawful to deliberately or negligently set fire or cause to burn any combustible material in such a manner so as to endanger the safety of persons or property.

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Any outdoor burning or recreational fire, such as a bonfire, that is larger than what is listed under the Location and Size Requirements, is not permitted unless a permit is obtained from the City of Warren.

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Any outdoor burning that is not in compliance with the general requirements and regulations specified under the Outdoor Burning Ordinance No. 1859.

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Location and Size Requirements

- The minimum distance from any structure or combustible material must be at least 15 feet when the fire is contained in an approved container. Movable outdoor fireplaces, metal rings, stone/brick surrounds, or a metal container with a wire mesh screen are examples of approved containers.
- If an approved container is not used, a recreational fire cannot be located within 25 feet of any structure. The fuel area also cannot be larger than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height.
- Barbeque grills and outdoor fireplaces are not permitted on balconies.
- Barbeque grills cannot be operated within 15 feet of any structure.
- Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within the required clearance areas must be eliminated prior to ignition.
- No fire may be ignited or maintained within 10 feet of a property line of public sidewalk.
- No recreational fire, bonfire, portable outdoor fireplace, or barbeque grill may be operated, conducted, or maintained within any street

right-of-way unless approved by the City of Warren in conjunction with a Special Event permit.

City of Warren

Police Department
318 West 3rd Avenue
Warren, PA 16365

Phone: 814-723-2700

Web:
www.cityofwarrenpa.gov

Burning Safety Tips



Make safety your first consideration! Never leave a fire unattended. The wind can suddenly increase or shift direction and children or pets can unexpectedly bump into something or fall onto the fire. Never allow children to play with the fire materials.



Select your firewood to minimize smoke. Burn clean, seasoned, dry firewood only. Well-seasoned hardwoods produce less smoke than unseasoned wood or softwood.



Start with a small fire. The first time you use your outdoor fireplace or fire pit, use minimal fuel. Learn how your outdoor fireplace or fire pit draws air, how it responds to changes in wind direction, and how long it burns before you need to add more wood.



Use a protective covering. If your outdoor fireplace or fire pit comes with a protective cover or screen, use it to shield your outdoor fireplace or fire pit from the elements. After the initial flames have died down, place the screen in front of or over the fire. This will help control sparks and burning debris.



Be prepared to extinguish the fire. Always keep a hose, water supply, or fire extinguisher within reach. At the end of the evening or when you plan to leave the fire, be sure your fire is completely extinguished before leaving it.



Be courteous to your neighbors. Check with your neighbors, they may have a medical condition that could be severely affected by the smoke from your fire. If wind conditions exist that can blow the smoke into their homes, refrain from burning or relocate the fire to a different area.



They City of Warren may establish a temporary burning ban on all types of outdoor burning whenever such action is deemed to be in the public interest due to air quality, weather, or other conditions.