



Muskegon Department of Public Safety

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Subject: 2014 Recreational Fires – City of Muskegon

Should you wish to have a recreational fire within the City of Muskegon limits, please follow the following guidelines under Chapter 30 “Fire Prevention and Protection,” Article IV “Recreational Fires,” of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Muskegon:

Section 30-221. Guidelines

1. **ONLY** natural cut wood no longer than 24 inches in length may be burned.
2. The following shall **NOT** be burned: leaves, brush, pine needles, processed lumber, varnished or painted materials, pallets, sawdust, wiring, furniture, carpeting or grass.
3. No burning of materials in a barrel (also known as “barrel burning”) is allowed.
4. Fires must be in a pit no wider than 36 inches in diameter and it is recommended that it have brick or concrete block on the outside of the ring. A specially made above-ground stand, also known as a portable outdoor fireplace, may be used.
5. The fire shall be attended at all times and extinguished completely when left unattended.
6. Maintain a minimum of 25 feet between the fire and any combustible surface or material, including but not limited to houses, fencing, trailers and vehicles.
7. A compatibly-sized means of extinguishment must be available at all times, e.g., a garden hose connected to the house that reaches the edge of the fire.
8. Use extreme caution when weather conditions result in lack of rain for more than a week and/or high temperatures resulting in dry conditions.
9. Be observant to wind direction and smoke travel into neighboring homes. Extinguish fire if smoke is traveling into a neighboring home.

Section 30-221. Extinguishment Order

The city fire department or police department may order the extinguishment of a recreational fire or open burning for the following reasons:

1. **High winds.**
2. **Burning prohibited materials.**
3. **Citizen complaint (including health concerns for smoke).**
4. **Unattended fire.**
5. **Potential safety concerns as determined by the fire department or police department.**

(continued)

Section 30-222. Refusal to Comply with Extinguishment Order

If a person refused to comply with an order issued by the fire and/or police department to extinguish a fire, the fire will be extinguished by the fire department.

Section 30-223. Civil Infraction

The fire and/or police department may issue a civil citation to the person(s) refusing to comply with the order to extinguish or for failure to comply with any of the guidelines in Section 30-221.

It is our goal to ensure the safety of our citizens from the potential dangers of fire. We appreciate your cooperation in developing good fire safety habits.

Thank you.

Fire Prevention Bureau
Muskegon Fire Department