



Code Compliance Department Guidelines for Open Burning, Recreational Fires & Bonfires

Open Burning: Burning of refuse, leaves and trimmings **is prohibited** by Manheim Township Ordinance 2004 - 8: amended section 307.2.2, Prohibited open burning, which reads as follows:

Refuse, leaves and trimmings shall not be burned outdoors on the premises in any manner whatsoever.

Exception: Properties with 10 or more acres with an active agricultural farming operation are permitted to burn agricultural commodities in their unmanufactured state (no household refuse, recyclables, construction materials or similar materials).

An annual Agricultural Burning Permit is required.

Recreational Fires – Administrative Order # 2012-1

Definition: An outdoor burning of fire materials that have a total fuel area of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height for the purpose of pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking warmth or similar purposes.

Recreational fires do not require a fire permit and must comply the following conditions:

- **No refuse (trash), recyclables, construction materials, leaves or trimmings may be burned.**
- Fires must be three (3) feet or less in diameter and two (2) feet or less in height.
- Fires shall be at least 25 feet from any structure, property line and combustible material.
- Only dried seasoned wood may be burned. Fires shall be in a pit or contained by a protective barrier.
- A garden hose, or portable fire extinguisher (minimum 4-A rating) must be available for immediate use.
- Fires must be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished.
- The recreational fire must be completely extinguished no later than 10 PM.

Bonfires:

Definition: An outdoor fire used for ceremonial purposes which is more than three (3) feet in diameter and more than two (2) feet in height.

A fire permit is required for a bonfire. A fire permit application must be filled out and submitted along with the permit fee and site plan indicating the location of bonfire with distances to all buildings and property lines, including the date and time of the event.

Bonfires must comply with the following conditions:

- The minimum required distance from a building is 50 feet.
- A garden hose, or a portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating shall be available for immediate use.
- Bonfires must be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished.
- Bonfires shall be extinguished no later than 10 PM.

*** Note: Any open burning that is offensive or objectionable because of smoke or odor emissions or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances makes such fire hazardous shall be prohibited by the Fire Code Official.**

A Township Fire or Code Official, Fire Officer or Police Officer is authorized to order the extinguishment of any burning which creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation.