

Adopted by City Council on 8/12/2025
Effective Date: 8/29/2025

Underscored text is proposed to be added. [Bracketed] text is proposed for deletion.

Sec. 7-17. Open burning requirements.

- (a) Preamble: Statement of Purpose: Open burning of combustible materials may create a hazard or nuisance, emissions from incomplete combustion or burning of hazardous and toxic materials pollute the air and make it difficult for persons with respiratory problems to breathe. A nuisance is considered to be the unreasonable, unwarranted, or unlawful use of a person's property which substantially interferes with the use and enjoyment of another person's property. A smoke nuisance typically occurs when wood or other combustible materials are burned in a campfire, fire pit, chiminea or similar devise which results in the release of large amounts of smoke and un-burned particulate matter.
- (b) The following types of open burning shall be allowed only in accordance with the following standards:
 - (1) The burning of nonprocessed (non-processed wood is considered to be any untreated natural wood up to and including rough cut lumber) wood for campfires, bonfires and other outdoor fires for ceremonial or recreational purposes; cooking fires and fires within an enclosed commercial product such as a chiminea, fire pit or patio hearth; fires within an enclosed fixed masonry structure such as stone, block or brick[;] and shall be a minimum of twenty (20) feet from any permanent structure and property line as found in assessor's database.
 - (2) No fire shall exceed three (3) feet in diameter and no fire shall extend beyond 1:00 a.m. The fire marshal or open burning official may approve exceptions for emergency situations.
 - (3) Only dry, non-processed wood may be burned.
 - (4) Burning is prohibited when the State of Connecticut forest fire danger is high, very high or extreme or when conditions as identified by the fire marshal prohibit burning, or when the predicted state air quality index is seventy-five (75) or higher as reported by ct.gov/DEEP/Air/Forecasting/AQI/Air-Quality-Index.
- (c) The following types of open burning shall not be allowed unless the fire marshal or open burning official issues a permit:
 - (1) Fires for the control or destruction of diseases, pests, floodplain brush and debris, vegetation management; for the control of frost and the warming of livestock;
 - (2) Fires to abate an immediate fire hazard or fires to abate a health hazard as determined by the local director of health.

- (d) The following types of open burning shall not be allowed:
- (1) Processed wood (including wood that has been milled and or planed and includes recycled wood, glued wood, treated wood, pallets, crates, and/or wood scraps from these types of materials), garbage, grass, paper, metals, rubber, painted materials, demolition waste, cardboard, construction waste materials, plastic, flammable and combustible liquids, hazardous materials, paints, solvents, lacquers, varnish;
 - (2) Any other materials that are prohibited by Connecticut Statutes or regulations or materials that are deemed hazardous to burn by the fire marshal, open burning official or senior fire official on scene.
- (e) Open burning shall be conducted so as not to create a hazard or nuisance. When burning dry wood in a campfire or in one of the acceptable devices as mentioned in subsection (b)(1) above, the utmost caution must be exercised to prevent injury to humans and animals and damage to property. Any fire shall be considered a nonpermitted fire if it is determined to be a hazard and/or nuisance by the fire marshal, opening burning official, senior fire official on scene or police officer.
- (f) Upon receipt of a complaint concerning any open fire, the deputy fire chief, the nearest available engine company, and a police officer shall respond to the complaint. The senior fire official on scene shall make a determination as to whether the fire shall be extinguished. The police officer or senior fire official on scene shall make a determination as to whether an infraction shall be issued or whether other action shall be taken.
- (g) Violations of this section shall be an infraction punishable as provided in section 1-11 of this Code of Ordinances. Each violation shall be considered a separate offense.

(Ord. of 12-14-10; Ord. of 5-11-21)