

Outdoor and Open Burning

Section 1. Purpose

This ordinance is intended to promote the public health, safety and welfare and to safeguard the health, comfort, living conditions, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Township of Clinton by regulating the air pollution and fire hazards of open burning and outdoor burning.

Section 2. Applicability

This ordinance applies to all outdoor burning and open burning within the Township of Clinton.

- 2.1 This ordinance does not apply to grilling or cooking food using charcoal, wood, propane or natural gas in cooking or grilling appliances.
- 2.2 This ordinance does not apply to burning for the purpose of generating heat in a stove, furnace, fireplace or other heating device within a building used for human or animal habitation.
- 2.3 This ordinance does not apply to the use of propane, acetylene, natural gas, gasoline or kerosene in a device intended for heating, construction or maintenance activities.

Section 3. Severability

Should any portion of this ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected.

Section 4. Definitions

- 4.1 "Campfire" means a small outdoor fire intended for recreation or cooking but not including a fire intended for disposal of waste wood or refuse.
- 4.2 "Clean wood" means natural wood which has not been painted, varnished or coated with a similar material; has not been pressure treated with preservatives; and does not contain resins or glues as in plywood or other composite wood products.
- 4.3 "Construction and demolition waste" means building waste materials, including but not limited to waste shingles, insulation, lumber, treated wood, painted wood, wiring, plastics, packaging, and rubble that results from construction, remodeling, repair, and demolition operations on a house, commercial or industrial building, or other structure.

- 4.4 "Fire Chief" means the Chief of the Clinton Fire Department for Clinton, Michigan.
- 4.5 "Municipality" means a county, township, city, or village.
- 4.6 "Outdoor burning" means open burning or burning in an outdoor wood-fired boiler or patio wood burning unit.
- 4.7 "Open burning" means kindling or maintaining a fire where the products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or a chimney. This includes burning in a burn barrel
- 4.8 "Outdoor wood-fired boiler" means a wood-fired boiler, stove or furnace that is not located within a building intended for habitation by humans or domestic animals.
- 4.9 "Patio wood-burning unit" means a chimenea, patio warmer, or other portable wood-burning device used for outdoor recreation and/or heating.
- 4.10 "Refuse" means any waste material except trees, logs, brush, stumps, leaves, grass clippings, and other vegetative matter.

Section 5. General Prohibition on Outdoor Burning and Open Burning

Open burning and outdoor burning are prohibited in the Township of Clinton unless the burning is specifically permitted by this ordinance.

Section 6. Open Burning of Refuse

- 6.1 Open burning of refuse from a commercial or industrial establishment is prohibited.
- 6.2 Open burning of refuse from and at a one or two family dwelling is allowed if all of the following conditions are met
 - A. The burning does not create a nuisance. e.g., no materials shall be burned that create a foul or offensive odor or that cause smoke emissions that are reasonably offensive to occupants of surrounding property,
 - B. The burning is conducted in a container constructed of metal or masonry that has a metal covering device that does not have an opening larger than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.
 - C. The material being burned is not prohibited under subsection 6.3.
 - D. A permit issued in accordance with section 13 of this ordinance has been obtained.
- 6.3 Open burning of the following materials is prohibited.
 - A. Construction and demolition waste.

- B. Hazardous substances including but not limited to batteries, household chemicals, pesticides, used oil, gasoline, paints, varnishes, and solvents.
- C. Furniture and appliances.
- D. Tires.
- E. Any plastic materials including but not limited to nylon, PVC, ABS. polystyrene or urethane foam, and synthetic fabrics, plastic films and plastic containers. 6.3.6. Newspaper. (take to re-cycle center)
- F. Corrugated cardboard, container board, office paper. (take to re-cycle center)
- G. Treated or painted wood including but not limited to plywood, composite wood products or other wood products that are painted, varnished or treated with preservatives. .

Section 7. Open Burning of Trees, Logs, Brush, Stumps, Leaves, and Grass Cuppings

7.1 Open burning of trees, logs, brush, stumps, leaves, and grass clippings is allowed only in accordance with all of the following provisions

- A. Except for campfires, a permit issued in accordance with Section 13 of this ordinance must be obtained prior to open burning under this section when the ground is not snow covered.
- B. Open burning of trees, logs, brush, and stumps must be conducted at least 1,400 feet from an incorporated city or village limit.
- C. Except for barbecue, gas, and charcoal grills, no open burning shall be undertaken during periods when the Governor of Michigan has issued a burning ban applicable to the area (Clinton Fire Department can tell you times)
- D. All allowed open burning shall be conducted in a safe, nuisance-free manner, when wind and weather conditions minimize adverse effects and do not create a health hazard or a visibility hazard on roadways, railroads or airfields. Open burning shall be conducted in conformance with all local and state fire protection regulations. Open burning shall be conducted in conformance with all local and state fire protection regulations.
- E. Open burning shall be conducted only on the property on which the materials were generated.
- F. Outdoor campfires and small bonfires for cooking, ceremonies, or recreation are allowed provided they do not cause a nuisance. e.g., outdoor

campfires in residential developments shall not create a foul or offensive odor or smoke emissions that are reasonably offensive to occupants of surrounding property.

- G. Open burning under this section shall only be conducted at a location at least 15 feet from the nearest building which is not on the same property.
- H. Except for campfires, open burning shall only be conducted between the hours of 7:00 am and 9:00 pm.
- I. Open burning shall be constantly attended and supervised by a competent person of at least eighteen (18) years of age until the fire is extinguished and is cold: The person shall have readily available for use such fire extinguishing equipment as may be necessary for the total control of the fire.
- J. No materials may be burned upon any street, curb, gutter or sidewalk or on the ice of a lake, pond, stream or water body.
- K. Except for barbecue, gas, and charcoal grills, no burning shall be undertaken within 25 feet from any combustible material, combustible wall or partition, exterior window opening, exit access or exit unless authorized by the Fire Chief.

Section 8. Agricultural Burning

Open burning of weeds, brush, and crop stubble on agricultural lands is allowed if conducted in accordance with other applicable provisions of this ordinance.

Section 9. Prescribed Burns

- 9.1 "Prescribed Burn" means the burning, in compliance with a prescription and to meet planned fire or land management objectives, of a continuous cover of fuels. A "prescription" means a written plan establishing the criteria necessary for starting, controlling, and extinguishing a burn.
- 9.2 Fires set for forest, prairie, and wildlife habitat management are allowed only if conducted in accordance with Part 515 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, MCL 324.51501 et seq.

Section 10. Outdoor Wood-Fired Boilers

An outdoor wood-fired boiler may be installed and used in the Township of Clinton only in accordance with all of the following provisions:

- 10.1 The outdoor wood-fired boiler shall be installed and used only in an area zoned for agricultural use.

- 10.2 The outdoor wood-fired boiler shall not be used to burn refuse.
- 10.3 The outdoor wood-fired boiler shall be located at least 200 feet from the nearest building which is not on the same property as the outdoor wood-fired boiler.
- 10.4 The outdoor wood-fired boiler shall have a chimney. If there are any residences within 200 feet the chimney shall comply with manufacturer's recommendations and if the smoke from the chimney height does not create a nuisance for neighbors.
- 10.5 The owner of the outdoor wood-fired boiler shall obtain an annual permit from the Fire Chief in accordance with Section 13 of this ordinance.

Section 11. Patio Wood-Burning Units

A patio wood-burning unit may be installed and used in the Township of Clinton only in accordance with all of the following provisions:

- 11.1 The patio wood-burning unit shall not be used to burn refuse.
- 11.2 The patio wood-burning unit shall burn only clean wood.
- 11.3 The patio wood-burning unit shall be located at least 25 feet from the nearest structure which is not on the same property as the patio wood-burning unit
- 11.4 The patio wood-burning unit shall not cause a nuisance to neighbors.

Section 12. Fire Suppression Training

Notwithstanding sections 5 and 6 of this ordinance, structures and other materials may be burned for fire prevention training only in accordance with all of the following provisions.

- 12.1 The burn must be exclusively for fire prevention training. The burning shall not be used as a means to dispose of waste material including tires and other hazardous materials.
- 12.2 Any standing structure that will be used in a fire suppression training must be inspected and should be inspected by a licensed asbestos inspector. A notification of this inspection must be submitted to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Air Quality Division at least ten business days prior to burning a standing structure. The notification must be submitted using Form EQP 5661 "Notification of intent to Renovate/Demolish"
- 12.3 All asbestos must be removed prior to conducting the fire suppression training. If the structure is a residential dwelling, the owner may remove the asbestos or have it removed by a licensed abatement contractor. If it is a commercial building, all asbestos must be removed by a licensed abatement contractor.

- 12.4 All ash shall be disposed of in an approved landfill or at an alternate location approved by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.
- 12.5 Asphalt shingles and asphalt or plastic siding shall be removed prior to the practice burn unless the Fire Chief determines that they are necessary for the fire practice.
- 12.6 At least 48 hours before a planned practice burn, residents within 1,000 feet of the proposed burn shall be notified.
- 12.7 All fire suppression training should conform to the guidelines established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions (NFPA 1403).

Section 13. Burning Permits

- 13.1 No person shall start or maintain any outdoor burning or open burning covered under this section without a burning permit issued by the Clinton Fire Department
- 13.2 Any person responsible for burning leaves, brush, clean wood or other vegetative debris under Section 7 of this ordinance shall obtain a one-time burning permit before starting the fire. The fee for each one-time burning permit shall be \$_____.
- 13.3 An outdoor campfire does not require a permit provided that the fire complies with all other applicable provisions of this ordinance.
- 13.4 The owner or occupant of the property shall obtain a permit for each burn barrel and/or outdoor wood-fired boiler as appropriate and as required by sections 6.2.D and 10.5 before using the burn barrel and/or outdoor wood-fired boiler. The fee for each burning permit shall be \$_____.
- 13.5 When weather conditions warrant, the Fire Chief may temporarily suspend issuing burning permits and may temporarily suspend previously issued burning permits for open burning.
- 13.6 A burning permit issued under this section shall require compliance with all applicable provisions of this ordinance and any additional special restrictions deemed necessary to protect public health and safety.
- 13.7 Any violation of the conditions of a burning permit shall be deemed a violation of this ordinance. Any violation of this ordinance or the burning permit shall void the permit

Section 14. Liability

A person utilizing or maintaining an outdoor fire shall be responsible for any liability resulting from damage caused by the fire.

Section 15. Right of Entry and Inspection

The Fire Chief or any authorized officer or agent of the Township of Clinton who presents credentials may inspect any property for the purpose of ascertaining compliance with the provisions of this ordinance.

Section 16. Enforcement and Penalties

16.1 The Fire Chief and officers of the Lenawee County Sheriff and the Michigan State Police are authorized to enforce the provisions of this ordinance.

16.2 Any person, firm, association, partnership, corporation, or governmental entity who violates any of the provisions of this ordinance or fails to comply with a duly authorized Order issued pursuant to this ordinance shall be deemed to be responsible for a municipal civil infraction as defined by Michigan Statute which shall be punishable by civil fine determined in accordance with the following schedule:

	Minimum Fine	Maximum Fine
1st offense within 3-year period*	\$75.00	\$500.00
2nd offense within 3-year period*	\$150.00	\$500.00
3rd offense within 3-year period*	\$325.00	\$500.00
4th or more offense within 3-year period*	\$500.00	\$500.00

*Determined on the basis of the date of commission of the offense(s)

16.3 The violator shall pay costs which may include all expenses, direct and indirect, which the township of Clinton has incurred in connection with the municipal infraction. In no case, however, shall costs of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1500 be ordered. In addition, the township shall have the right to proceed in any court of competent jurisdiction for the purpose of obtaining an injunction, restraining order, or other appropriate remedy to compel compliance with this Ordinance. Each day that a violation of this Ordinance exists shall constitute a separate violation of this Ordinance.