



TOWNSHIP OF WARMINSTER

Department of Emergency Management & Services

InfoSheet

Open Burning VS. Portable Outdoor Fireplaces

Open Burning: **NOT ALLOWED BY ORDINANCE #754 and #700**

- The burning of materials where the products of combustion are emitted directly into the air without passing through a stack or chimney.
- The burning of natural vegetation, yard waste, municipal waste, recyclable materials, garbage, rubbish, and construction waste is prohibited.
- Does not include road flares or anything associated with specific construction uses.
- Does not include portable outdoor fireplaces.

Portable Outdoor Fireplaces: **ALLOWED BY ORDINANCE #754**

- Shall be a minimum of 15 feet from structures and other combustible materials. See graphic for some examples of combustible materials/structures.
- Only solid fuels are allowed: non-pressure-treated wood, charcoal or fireplace logs.
- Constructed of steel, concrete, clay, or other noncombustible material.
- Shall have a screen on the top to prevent large embers from escaping into the air that may cause a fire.
- Shall be in good repair and safe condition and follow manufacturer's instructions.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Fires shall be constantly attended by a competent adult until the fire is completely extinguished✓ One 4-A rated portable fire extinguisher, or extinguishing method such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose, or water truck shall be available for immediate utilization.✓ The fire code official, fire chief, police chief, or their designates <u>are authorized to order the extinguishment of a fire if the smoke is offensive or objectionable or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous.</u>✓ The use of flammable liquids to start and/or maintain a fire is prohibited. | <p>Some examples of combustible items that can catch fire from the radiant heat put off by a fireplace.</p> <p>15 FEET AWAY</p> <p>Safe Distance area</p> |
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Warminster Township Ordinance #754 (2019) and #700 (2010)



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Ordinance #754 – Open Burning Reference

Website link: <https://www.ecode360.com/WA2486/laws/LF1075235.pdf>

Chapter 5: Code Enforcement

Part 4: Fire Prevention and Life Safety Standards

III. The 2015 International Fire Code is hereby adopted by reference and deemed incorporated into the Code as the “Warminster Township Fire Prevention and Life Safety Code”.

Excerpt from full ordinance pertaining to open burning:

7. Section 307 is amended to read as follows:

307.1 Prohibited open burning. Open burning, bon fires, and recreational fires shall be prohibited within Warminster Township.

Exception: Fire Department training where conducted in accordance with state law.

307.2 Portable outdoor fireplaces. Portable outdoor fire places shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions and shall not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material.

307.3 Attendance. Use of portable outdoor fireplaces shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher complying with Section 906 with a minimum 4-A rating or other approved on-site fire-extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck, shall be available for immediate utilization.

307.4 Extinguishment Authority. The Fire Marshal or designee, Police Department, Fire Department or Code Enforcement Officers are authorized to order the extinguishment of open burning, recreational fires, and/or fires in portable outdoor fireplaces that are offensive or objectionable because of smoke emissions or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances create or add to a hazardous situation.