

CHAPTER 159

FIRE CODE

159.01 Adoption of International Fire Code

159.02 Amendments

159.01 ADOPTION OF INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE. The *International Fire Code, 2003 Edition*, as published by the International Code Council, is hereby adopted in full by reference except such portions as may be hereinafter deleted, modified or amended. An official copy of the *International Fire Code, 2003 Edition*, is on file in the office of the Clerk.

159.02 AMENDMENTS. Section 307 of the *International Fire Code* governing open burning and recreational fires is deleted and replaced with the following:

1. Open Burning Prohibited. No person shall allow, cause or permit within the City the open burning of combustible materials where the products of combustion are emitted into the open air without passing through a chimney or stack. This prohibition shall include, but not be limited to, the kindling of or maintaining any bonfire or refuse fire, burning inorganic material or any paper or similar combustible debris, including plants, leaves or vegetable matter, or authorizing any such fire to be kindled or maintained on any private land within the boundaries of the City except that open burning is permitted in the following circumstances:
 - A. Grills. Barbecue grills used solely for the preparation of food for human consumption.
 - B. Organic Fires on Agricultural Land. Organic fires located on agricultural land within the City. Organic fires, as referred to in this section, means the burning of organic non-crop plant material, other than grass, grown on and/or collected from the parcel upon which the fire is located. Such fires shall not be located within ¼ mile of an occupied structure. Agricultural land, as used herein, means land used for the cultivation of land for production of agricultural crops, the raising of poultry, the production of eggs, the production of milk, the production of fruit or other horticultural crops, and the grazing or production of livestock.
 - C. Recreational Fires. A fire is deemed a recreational fire when all of the following conditions are met:
 1. The fire must be used for cooking, heating, recreation or ceremonies.
 2. The fire must be contained within a fire ring or a device sold commercially for the specific purpose of containing a recreational fire.
 3. Fuel for a recreational fire shall consist of wood only (including commercially sold recreational fire logs) and shall be two inches in diameter or larger. This requirement shall not apply to twigs and other kindling reasonably necessary for the initial lighting of the fire.
 4. Fuel shall be no longer than three (3) feet in length.
 5. Fuel within the acceptable fire ring shall not set higher than three (3) feet above the base of the fire.
 6. Recreational fires shall not be used for disposal of yard waste, leaves and/or twigs.

A fire ring is a continuous ring made of stone, brick, rock, metal or other non-combustible material not more than five (5) feet in diameter, which is designed to contain a recreational fire and impede the spread of fire beyond the ring.

- D. Bonfires. A bonfire is any fire that does not meet the definition and requirements of a recreational fire. A person may kindle or maintain a bonfire or authorize such fire to be kindled or maintained, if such person first obtains a permit or authorization from the Fire Chief, and the following conditions are met:
1. Such person is an authorized City employee operating under the authority of the City to conduct such a fire; and/or
 2. The purpose of the fire is the instruction of public employees in the methods of fire fighting; and/or
 3. The purpose of the fire is for public gatherings under legitimate sponsorship of civic, fraternal, religious, education or similar organization; and
 4. Only organic materials are used, proper safety precautions are used, and the fire is well controlled.
- E. Emergency Events. This section shall not apply during times declared as emergency situations by the Mayor. Such emergency situations may include (but are not limited to) times when extraordinary weather events cause excessive amounts of yard waste.
- F. Control of Fire. All fires permitted under this section shall be attended at all times and controlled by a competent person until such fire is entirely extinguished. No fire permitted under this section shall be started within ten (10) feet of any combustible wall, fence, building or structure.
- G. Burn Bans. All fires permitted under this section shall be prohibited during County or local burn bans.
- H. Nuisance. Any fire or condition that fails to comply with this section is hereby declared a nuisance.

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