



SHAKER HEIGHTS

Open Burning and Outdoor Cooking

*This checklist serves as a general safety guideline for the applicable permit. Permit holders are responsible for adhering to all sections of the Shaker Heights Fire Prevention Code and the Ohio Fire Code pertaining to the conditions for issuance of this permit. Failure to do so is cause for the permit to be revoked and fines and/or penalties to be imposed.

Recreational Fires

Definition: A fire for pleasure, religious, cooking, warmth, or similar purposes. An outdoor fire burning materials other than refuse, garbage, leaves, rubbish, or material of any sort for disposal purposes where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, portable outdoor fireplace, BBQ grill or BBQ pit. The maximum allowable size is three feet (3') in diameter and two feet (2') in height. This includes ordinary campfires (OFC 202, City Ord. 905.04).

Location: At least 25 feet away from a structure and combustible materials. Conditions that would allow the fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition (OFC 307.4.2).

Nuisance: A recreational fire that becomes offensive or objectionable because of smoke or odor emission or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited (OFC 307.1.1). (This includes citizen complaints, dry conditions, wind, air pollution index alert, etc.).

The fire can be ordered to be extinguished in these conditions (OFC 307.3).

Attendance: A recreational fire shall be constantly attended until extinguished. Fire extinguishing equipment shall be present. (A minimum 4A extinguisher or other equipment such as water barrels/buckets or a garden hose) (OFC 307.5).

Bonfires

Definition: An outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes utilizing fuel other than refuse, garbage, leaves, rubbish, or material of any sort for disposal purposes. Bonfires are usually large and associated with a crowd activity (OFC 202, City Ord. 905.04).

Location: At least 50 feet away from a structure or combustible material unless contained in a BBQ pit and conditions that would allow the fire to spread within 50 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition (OFC 307.4.1).

A **permit** is required for a bonfire (OFC 307.2).

Nuisance: A bonfire that becomes offensive or objectionable because of smoke or odor emission or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited. This includes citizen complaints, dry conditions, wind, air pollution index alert, etc. (OFC 307.1.1).

The fire can be ordered to be extinguished in these conditions (OFC 307.3).

Attendance: A bonfire shall be constantly attended until extinguished. Fire extinguishing equipment shall be present. (A minimum 4A extinguisher or other equipment such as water barrels/buckets or a garden hose). (OFC 307.5).

Open Burning

Definition: The burning of materials wherein products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber. (An enclosed chamber means that during combustion, only apertures, ducts, stacks, flues or chimneys necessary to provide combustion air and permit the escape of exhaust gas are open from the chamber).

Any burning that takes place in an unenclosed space. Examples are burning leaves and grass clippings, agricultural practices, or control of disease and pests (OFC 202).

Location: At least 50 feet away from a structure and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 50 feet of a structure or 25 feet distances if no larger than three feet (3') diameter by two feet (2') high or 15 feet distances if in an approved container (OFC 307.4).

A permit is required for open burning (OFC 307.2).

Nuisance: Open burning that becomes offensive or objectionable because of smoke or odor emission or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited. This includes citizen complaints, dry conditions, wind, air pollution index alert etc. (OFC 307.1.1).

The fire can be ordered to be extinguished in these conditions (OFC 307.3).

Attendance: Open burning shall be constantly attended until extinguished. Fire extinguishing equipment shall be present. (A minimum 4A extinguisher or other equipment such as water barrels/buckets or a garden hose) (OFC 307.5).

Portable Outdoor Fireplaces

Definition: A portable, outdoor, solid-fuel-burning fireplace (utilizing fuel other than refuse, garbage, leaves, rubbish, or material of any sort for disposal purposes) that may be constructed of steel, concrete, clay or other noncombustible material. A portable outdoor fireplace may be open in design, or may be equipped with a small hearth opening and a short chimney or chimney operating in the top. Examples are commercial fire pits and chimneys (OFC 202, City Ord. 905.04).

Location and Use: Portable outdoor fireplaces shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material.

Exception: Portable outdoor fireplaces used at one-and two-family dwellings do not need to comply with the distance requirements, although it is recommended (OFC 307.4.3).

Nuisance: A portable outdoor fireplace that becomes offensive or objectionable because of smoke or odor emission or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited. (This includes citizen complaints, dry conditions, wind, air pollution index alert, etc.) (OFC 307.1.1).

The fire can be ordered to be extinguished in these conditions (OFC 307.3).

Attendance: A portable outdoor fireplace shall be constantly attended until extinguished. Fire extinguishing equipment shall be present. (A minimum 4A extinguisher or other equipment such as water barrels/buckets or a garden hose) (OFC 307.5).

Outdoor Grilling

- **Charcoal and Propane Grills and Other Open Flame Cooking Devices** (except pre-piped natural gas grills and appliances).
Shall not be operated on combustible balconies.
Shall not be operated within 10 feet of combustible construction.
Exceptions: (1) One and two family dwellings do not need to comply with these two requirements although it is recommended. 2) If the building, balcony and deck are sprinkled; or where previously approved by the Fire Prevention Bureau (OFC 308.1 .4).
- **Propane Grills -Additional Requirements.**
Shall not be located or operated on any balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction with a propane cylinder greater than 2.5 pounds of water capacity (OFC 308.3.1.1, 3809.10.2).
Exception: One and two family dwellings do not need to comply with these requirements although it is recommended (308.1.4).
- **Pre-Piped Natural Gas Grills and Appliances.**
Shall not be operated on combustible balconies.
Shall not be operated within 10 feet of combustible construction.
Exceptions: One and two family dwellings do not need to comply with these requirements although it is recommended (OFC 308.1.4);
For 3+ family dwellings they can be installed and used on a combustible balcony and within 10 feet of combustible construction once approved in writing by the Fire Prevention Bureau (OFC 308.1.4.1).

OFC = Ohio Fire Code

City Ord. = Shaker Heights Fire Prevention Code