

Summary of Burning Regulations for The City of Fort Atkinson

Intent of regulations

The primary intent of the Cities burning regulations are to establish minimum requirements that allow some burning within the City limits yet provides for the reasonably safe handling of fires. The regulations also are intended to ensure that unreasonable amounts of smoke and debris are not produced.

When is burning allowed without a permit from The Fort Atkinson Fire Department?

- 1) One and two family (duplexes) homes are allowed to have cooking and recreational fires.
- 2) Listed (UL/FM approved) manufactured grills are allowed to be used for the cooking of food in many locations throughout the City (including city parks) provided they are used in a location that does not cause a hazard in the opinion of the AHJ, are used in the manner they were designed/approved for, and their use does not violation any code or City Ordinance. (*Grills are not allowed on balconies of multi-family buildings and when in use on the lawn, driveway, etc. they must be 10 feet from the building)

What is the maximum allowable size of a recreational fire?

The fire ring, pit, enclosure, fire area, etc. shall not exceed 3 feet in diameter
The fuel load shall not exceed 2 feet in height.

What things can or can't be burned?

Items that *MAY* be used as fuel for recreational fires are;

- Firewood that has *not* been chemically treated in any way including insecticides, pesticides, etc.
- Dimensional lumber provided it is not been painted, stained, treated, varnished, laminated, etc.

The following items are prohibited from being burned;

(This is not however, to be construed as an all-inclusive list)

- Leaves, grass clippings, garden debris, shrubs, brush, etc.
- Wood that has been painted, stained, treated, varnished, laminated, etc.
- Recyclable materials, including any type of metals
- Shingles, rubber, vinyl, or any petroleum based products
- Rubbish / trash / garbage
- Plastics of any kind including foam plastics
- Electronics / furniture / carpet

When is a burning permit required from The Fort Atkinson Fire Department?

- 1) Before any fire is started that does not comply with the definition of a recreational fire.
- 2) Before any fire is started that is not located on the property of a one or two family residence.
*Listed grills excluded as stated above.

How do I obtain a permit from The Fort Atkinson Fire Department?

A permit can be requested by calling The Fort Atkinson Fire Department at 1-920-563-7795. Permits may possibly be issued for such things as burning off small tracts for prairie restoration, recreational fires or bon fires for special events, etc. provided all conditions and limitations that are made part of a issued permit by the Fire Department are adhered too. Please be aware that depending upon the situation, a site visit may be required and several days' notice may be necessary.

Is there a time of day or night when fires are prohibited?

Not with recreational fires, but times may be specified if a permit is required.

Miscellaneous:

Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet (7620 mm) of a structure. **IFC 307.4.2**

All burning shall be controlled in such manner that unreasonable amounts of smoke and debris are not produced. **City Ordinance Chapter 34**

Open, recreational, and cooking fires shall be constantly attended by a *competent person* until such fire is extinguished. **NFPA 1 10.10.5.1**

Persons shall have a garden hose connected to the water supply or other fire-extinguishing equipment readily available for use. **NFPA 1 10.10.5.2**

Special Fire Hazard Conditions

The AHJ shall have the authority to prohibit any or all open flames, candles, and open, recreational, and cooking fires or other sources of ignition, or establish special regulations on the use of any form of fire or smoking material where circumstances make such conditions hazardous. **NPFA 1, 10.10.2**

Failure to Comply

Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of chapter 34, fails to carry out an order made pursuant to chapter 34, or violates any condition attached to a permit, approval, or certificate shall be subject to the penalties established by the AHJ. Each violation is subject to a \$325.00 penalty.