Topeka Fire Department
Open Burning Policy

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Types of Open Burning Allowed

- Residential Open Burning
  - Requires an Annual Permit

- Recreational Fires
  - No permit required
Residential Open Burning

• Annual Permit Required
• Managed by the Office of the City Fire Marshal
• Citizen must make an application
  • [https://www.topeka.org/tfd/burn-permits/](https://www.topeka.org/tfd/burn-permits/)
  • Or by phone to 785-368-4000
• Fire Inspectors will visit the site and inspect the proposed burn pile.
  • Pile must be 50 feet from any structure.
  • The items you are wanting to burn must be on the site where you want to burn them, if not permit will not be approved.
• If approved the permit will be issued and can be picked up at TFD headquarters, 324 SE Jefferson St
Residential Open Burning

- Pile can only contain clean untreated wood and garden debris.
- Burning in Barrels is never allowed!
- Items that cannot be burned
  - Trash
  - Treated Lumber
  - Painted or finished lumber
  - Grass clippings and leafs
  - Wire
  - Tires
  - Furniture
  - Etc.
Recreational Fires

• No permit required
• Fire shall not be within 25 feet of a building.
• Fires cannot be more then 3 feet in diameter and the pile no more than 2 feet tall.
• Cannot burn anything but clean wood or lumber.
  • NO TRASH, WIRE, TREATED LUMBER, PAINTED LUMBER, ETC.
• Burning in Barrels is never allowed for any reason!
• Fire can be extinguished at any time by TFD for any reason.
  • Fire is producing heavy smoke
  • To close to buildings
  • Not properly attended
  • Burning restricted items
  • Causing neighbors to complain
Fire that are in violation
Commercial Burn Permits

• These permits are a separate process and will not be covered in this presentation.
• If you need a commercial burn permit contact the TFD at 785-368-4000
Rules for burn day

• The approved permit shall be in possession of person doing burning or available for immediate inspection.
• Burning is only allowed during daylight hours. Permit fires must be extinguished at sundown.
• No burning during periods when surface wind speed is less than 5 MPH and more than 15 MPH.
• No burning within 50 feet of any structure (including sheds and flammable fences).
• No burning of heavy smoke producing materials.
• The Fire Chief or his designee reserves the right to modify or revoke any permit at any time.
• A competent person shall constantly attend open fires and recreational fires until such fire is extinguished. This person shall have a garden hose connected to a water supply or other approved fire extinguishing equipment readily available for use.
• Fire Dispatch will be notified prior to the fire being started, for authorization, and when the fire is extinguished at 785-368-9514.
  • For recreational fires dispatch does not need to be contacted.
• Burning operations shall meet the minimum requirements stated above and the open burning regulations of the State of Kansas K.A.R. 28-19-645 through 28-19-648.
What if you break the rules?

- Violations of the Topeka Burning Regulations is a misdemeanor.
- Fire Investigators regularly respond to illegal burning calls.
- After the first violation you can be cited and required to go to municipal court.
- Fines can be up to $499 per violation.
- At the time this presentation was made our win rate in court is 100%.