



# 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/>
  - 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

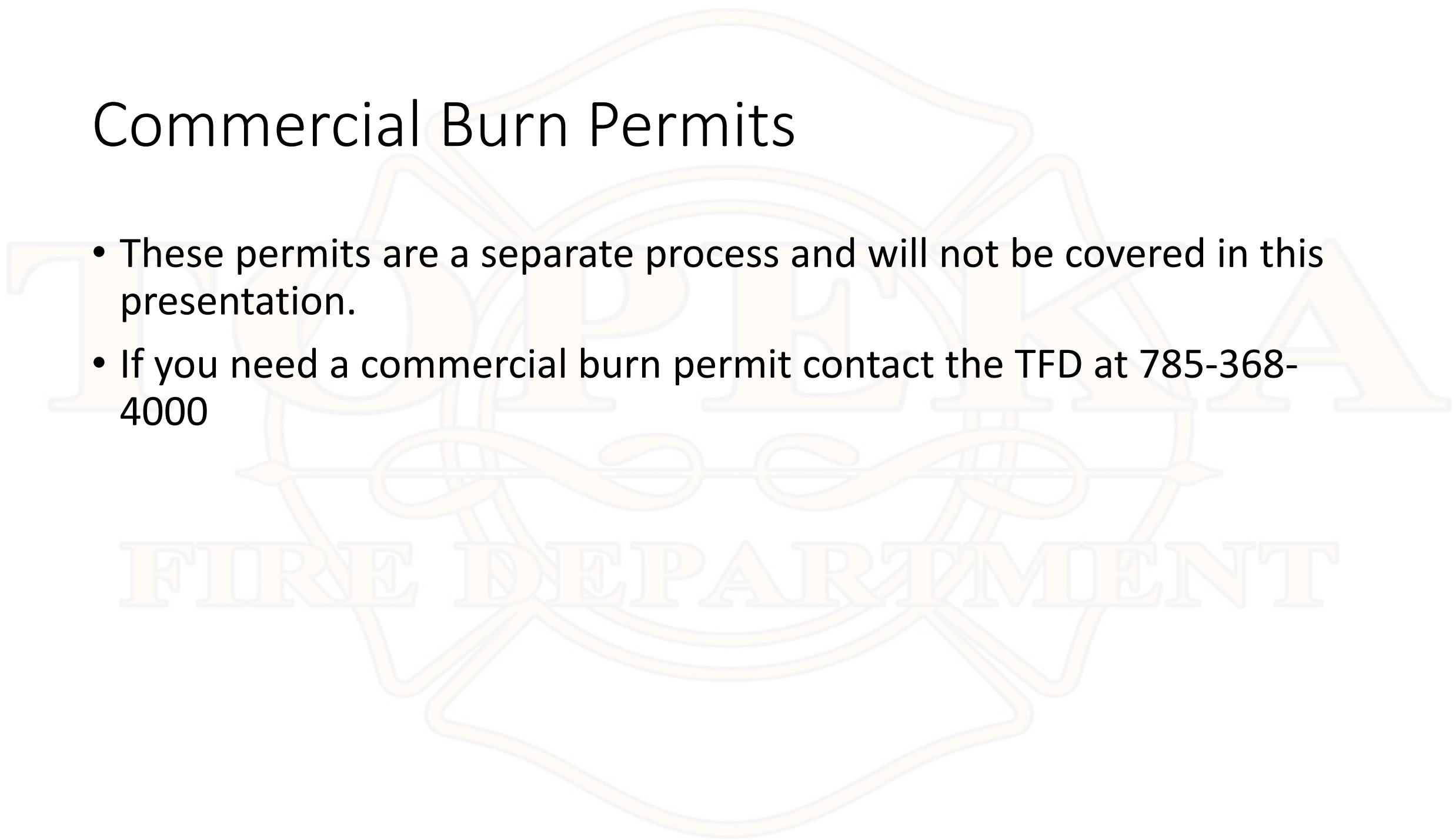
- No permit required
- Fire shall not be within 25 feet of a building.
- Fires cannot be more than 3 feet in diameter and the pile no more than 2 feet tall.
- Cannot burn anything but clean wood or lumber.
  - NO TRASH, WIRE, TREATED LUMBER, PAINTED LUMBER, ETC.
- Burning in Barrels is never allowed for any reason!
- Fire can be extinguished at any time by TFD for any reason.
  - Fire is producing heavy smoke
  - Too 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%

