

What you need to know about Backyard Burning:

Recently the Fire Department was asked about the requirements of fires used for Recreational purposes. The department relied on the "International Fire Code" (IFC) and the "National Fire Protection Association" (NFPA) for information that addressed these fires.

The Township is compelled to enforce the IFC by State mandate. This "Code" has specific guidelines that follow:

Charcoal Briquette cooking devices are limited to multi-family dwellings, where a separation of 10 feet from combustible materials can be maintained. No Charcoal Briquette barbeque shall be used on a combustible surface such as a deck.

Liquefied-petroleum-gas-fueled (LPG) cooking devices are limited to small tabletop grills when used at, or near, multi-family dwellings, where a separation of 10 feet from combustible materials can be maintained. Larger LP-gas barbeque grills on decks of multiple family dwellings are forbidden. The only exception is if the LP-gas barbeque grill can be located a minimum of 10 feet from a structure and away from combustible materials such as wooden decks.

Open fire devices such as Burn Pits, Kettles, and Chimneas require 25 feet distance from a structure or combustible materials and the fire they support are to be 3 feet or less in diameter, and no more than 2 feet high. No matter the design, all open burning requires a burn permit.

Open "Bonfires" have a 50 foot distance restriction from structures and combustibles. These types of fires are also forbidden from use around multifamily dwellings and a permit is required.

These requirements of multiple family dwelling exist because the property and life safety hazards are greater than at one & two family occupancies.

The Northville Township Fire/Rescue Department is a full service career department staffed by dedicated firefighters who have your safety interests in mind when we enforce the Fire Code. Fire Safety is one of our primary concerns. For further information please feel free to contact the department at, 248-348-5807.