



With summertime upon us, your fire and police departments would like to take the opportunity to ensure that your summertime activities are enjoyable, but also in compliance with recognized and approved regulations.

Burning

While many people enjoy campfires and the social atmosphere that comes with a recreational fire, there are rules that must be adhered to. Essentially open burning of any type is prohibited in our townships and no fire can create a nuisance or pose a threat to other persons or properties.

We have included a summary of the rules outlined in Section 307 of the International Fire Code for your reference:

307.4.1 Bonfires. A bonfire shall not be conducted within 50 feet of a structure or combustible material unless the fire is contained in a barbecue pit. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 50 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

307.4.2 Recreational fires. Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

307.4.3 Portable outdoor fireplaces. 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.

307.5 Attendance. Open burning, bonfires, recreational fires and use of portable outdoor fireplaces shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher other approved on-site fire-extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck, shall be available for immediate utilization.

Fireworks

Although the PA State Legislature changed the PA Fireworks Law in 2017, it does not permit use in residential neighborhoods, use by those under the age of 18 and absolutely prohibits fireworks that are classified as Display Fireworks (Consumer fireworks are labeled as Class C or Consumer grade). Further prohibitions under the current fireworks law include:

- Fireworks cannot be ignited/discharged on a public/private property without express permission of the property owner.
- Fireworks cannot be discharged from or within a motor vehicle or building.
- Fireworks cannot be discharged toward a motor vehicle or building.
- Fireworks cannot be discharged within 150 feet of occupied structures, whether or not a person is actually present.
- Fireworks cannot be discharged while under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance, or another drug

Discharges in residential developments (due to proximity regulations) are absolutely prohibited and punishable by fines.

We also encourage residents to be mindful of potential noise ordinance violations associated with the discharge of consumer fireworks.

We understand that fireworks are fun and appealing, but we urge all residents to consider the inherent danger and unintended consequences of improper use of fireworks and leave the fireworks to the professionals to ensure your celebrations are not marred by mishaps or visits from the authorities.