



Open Burning

Your guide to safe and legal open burning

What is Open Burning?

Open burning is any outdoor fire that does not vent to a chimney or stack.



Why is Open Burning Prohibited?

Open burning pollutes the air we breathe. Even small campfires burning clean wood can emit harmful chemicals.

The pollutants released by open burning make it more difficult to attain health-based air quality standards, especially in or near the major metropolitan centers.

Open burning releases various harmful pollutants, including volatile organic compounds (VOCs), particulate matter (PM) and carbon monoxide, all of which contribute to air pollution.

These pollutants can lead to breathing difficulties and increased asthma attacks. Additional health risks include heart damage and neurological symptoms such as headache, nausea, fatigue and vomiting.

How Do I Apply for a Permit?

Contact Central Joint Fire - EMS District at (513) 732-3876 and speak to the on-duty supervisor for questions about obtaining a burn permit.

What are the Consequences of Illegal Open Burning?

Central Joint Fire - EMS District along with the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency have the legal authority to enforce the open burning laws, ordinances and/or resolutions. Violations may result in criminal penalties. If you have any questions, or would like to report a suspected open burning incident, contact Central Joint Fire - EMS District at (513) 732-3876 and speak with the on-duty supervisor.

What Can I Burn?

Visit southwestohioair.org/open-burning to find additional information.



What Are the Alternatives to Open Burning?

You can reduce waste by participating in these environmentally-friendly activities:

-Compost: Start a compost pile in your backyard.

-Recycle: There are several recycling locations within the District. One such location is at the Batavia Township Community Center.

-Properly dispose of yard trimmings: Take advantage of Clermont County's yard trimmings drop-off sites.

-Properly dispose of household hazardous waste: Check with Clermont County's Solid Waste District.



Central Joint Fire - EMS District
2401 Old State Route 32
Batavia, Ohio 45103
513.732.3876 Phone

In conjunction with:
Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency
250 William Howard Taft Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

What Open Burning is Never Permitted?

- Garbage: Any waste created in the process of handling, preparing, cooking or the consumption of food.
- Dead animals.
- Materials containing rubber, grease and asphalt or made from petroleum products such as tires, cars, auto parts, plastics or plastic-coated wire.

What authority does the Fire District have to control open burning?

- To prohibit open burning that is offensive or objectionable because of smoke emissions or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous.
- The Fire Chief or his designee is authorized to order the extinguishment by the permit holder, another person responsible or the fire department of open burning that creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation.

The following types of open burning are allowed in the District:

Type of Fire	Batavia Village	Batavia Township (Outside Village)
Campfires or Portable Fire Pits	Wood Stack no larger than 3 feet wide by 2 feet high. Only clean seasoned firewood.	Wood Stack no larger than 2 feet by 2 feet high. Only clean seasoned firewood.
Agricultural Waste	Not permitted.	Agricultural waste and plant matter such as tree trimmings, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery and material from crop or livestock production. This includes fence posts and scrap lumber but not buildings. Fire must be 1000 feet from a structure on a neighbor’s property. Requires permit.
Land Clearing Waste	Not permitted.	Plant matter such as tree trimmings, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery and crop residues. Requires permit from SWOAQA in advance.
Residential Waste	Not permitted.	Plant matter such as tree trimmings, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery and crop residues. Fire must be 1000 feet from a structure on a neighbor’s property. Requires permit.
Ceremonial Fires	Wood stack no larger than 5 feet wide by 5 feet high. Duration no longer than 3 hrs. Only clean seasoned firewood. Requires permit.	Wood stack no larger than 5 feet wide by 5 feet high. Duration no longer than 3 hrs. Only cleaned seasoned firewood. Requires permit.
Occupational Fires (welding torches, heating tar, heating for warmth of outdoor workers and strikers)	Only clean seasoned firewood. Requires permit.	Only clean seasoned firewood. Requires Permit.
**Only waste that is grown on the property is acceptable for burning.		