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# City of Marshalltown Burning Regulations -2019-

**MARSHALLTOWN**  
IOWA

Open burning is allowed from April 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup>. Burning is limited to plant material grown on the premises or deposited thereon by the elements by the owner or occupant of the premises involved

Burning is allowed between the hours of 10:00 am and 7:00 pm daily (Sunday – Saturday) and is limited to single family dwellings only. Burning on public streets, alleys or the property of another, unless permission is given (neighbors – neighborhoods) is prohibited. All open burning piles shall be extinguished by 7 p.m.

No burning is allowed on holidays.

**Any opening burning must be constantly supervised by a competent person equipped with a satisfactory means of fire control.**

Open burning shall be prohibited when atmospheric conditions make such fires hazardous and includes:

- a. Wind speed greater than 15 mph.
- b. Extended dry weather conditions.

Open burning shall not be less than 50 feet from any structure. Fire in enclosed containers with a cover to control flying embers shall not be less than 15 feet from any structure.

**Burning of garbage is absolutely prohibited.**

Burning by commercial business is prohibited unless a burn permit is obtained from the Fire Department. If a permit is issued, all requirements for open burning shall be followed.

## **Recreational Fires**

Recreational fires shall be allowed for food preparation, religious, pleasure and camping purposes at one-and-two family dwellings and the City campground. The total area of the fire is limited to three (3) feet or less in diameter and two (2) feet or less in height. Material to be burned is limited to seasoned wood, and the fire shall comply with all other applicable codes related to open burning. Recreational fires on the ground shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material. Recreational fires contained in appliances specifically designed for this purpose (outdoor fireplace) shall not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material. The responsible party must provide a means to control flying embers. All recreational fires must be extinguished by 2:00 A.M.

Recreational fires are allowed year round.

## **Bonfires**

A bonfire is an outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes that exceeds the size requirements of a recreational fire.

Bonfires shall follow the listed requirements for recreational burning with the following exceptions:

- a. A permit is required from the fire code official.
- b. Bonfires are required to be 50 feet from any structure and 15 feet from property lines.

## **Other Restrictions**

It shall be unlawful to engage in open burning within 20 feet of any part of a pine or spruce tree.

## **Violations**

Any violation of the rules concerning prohibited and open burning, which require a response by the city's fire department, will be subject to a response fee as established by resolution.

## **Definitions**

*Backyard.* Backyard means any area as defined under Ch. 158 of the code of ordinances.

*Backyard burning.* The burning of natural vegetation originating on the premises and

burnt by individuals domiciled on or owning the premises. Natural vegetation includes, but is not limited to leaves, grass, small branches, flower remains and trimmings.

*Bonfire.* An outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes that exceeds the size requirements of a recreational fire.

*Garbage.* All solid and semi-solid putrescible and nonputrescible animal and vegetable wastes resulting from the handling, preparing, cooking, storing and serving of food or of material intended for use as food.

*Hazardous conditions.* Environmental factors, such as wind, temperature, and relative humidity that contribute to hazardous burning conditions.

*Open burning.* Any burning of materials wherein products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber as defined by the International Fire Code as adopted by the City of Marshalltown. Open burning does not include recreational fires or the use of outdoor portable fireplaces.

*Portable outdoor fireplace.* Portable outdoor fireplace means a portable, outdoor, solid-fuel burning fireplace that may be constructed of steel, concrete, clay, or other non-combustible material.

*Recreational fire.* An outdoor fire burning material other than rubbish or yard waste where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, portable outdoor fireplace, and barbecue grill and has a total fuel area of three (3) feet or less in diameter and two (2) feet or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.

*Rubbish.* Rubbish means all waste materials of nonputrescible nature.

Requirements referenced from the International Fire Code (2015) and Chapter 91 of the Marshalltown Code of Ordinances.