

RECREATIONAL BONFIRES

All recreational bonfires, defined as any open burning conducted for recreational purposes and consisting of a fire greater than forty-eight inches in diameter, shall be conducted in compliance with the following provisions:

- It shall only be allowed if a permit for such burning has been issued.
- The burning shall be attended to at all times by a person of at least 16 years of age.
- Burning shall be allowed year round.
- Material shall be burned in manageable piles such that reasonable precautions have been taken to avoid the escape thereof.
- Only paper, cardboard, firewood, dry leaves, brush, and clean untreated lumber may be burned.
- The burning shall be at least fifteen feet from the edge of the traveled portion of any road.
- The burning shall be at least fifteen feet from the edge of the traveled portion of any road.
- The burning shall be at least twenty-five feet from any structure including, but not limited to, fencing, wood piles, sheds, out-buildings, utility poles.
- The burning shall be at least five feet from any public or private property lines.
- Ash or waste from any fire shall not be deposited in the storm gutters adjoining or within the public streets and highways within the Township.

FIRE PITS and CAMPFIRES

Out-of-doors burning in fire pits, patio fireplaces and campfires shall be conducted in compliance with the following provisions:

- No permit shall be required to conduct such a burning.
- Such burning shall not be larger than forty-eight inches in diameter.
- Campfires may be built on the ground.
- There shall be a minimum area of thirty-six inches cleared of all burnable materials outside of the fire ring.
- Such burning shall use only seasoned firewood, paper, cardboard, dry leaves, brush, and clean untreated lumber and shall not extend outside the fire pit, campfire or patio fireplace.
- The burning shall be supervised at all times by a person of at least 16 years of age and shall be extinguished upon completion of the event or activity.
- Such burning shall be allowed year round.

The North Berrien Fire Rescue Department is a Volunteer / Paid on Call fire rescue department serving the City of Coloma, Coloma Charter and Hagar Townships in Southwestern Michigan.

NORTH BERRIEN FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Chiefs Office Is Located At:
North Berrien Fire St. 2
3060 Coloma Rd.
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
269-849-3409



Open Burning Coloma Township



*Respond,
Solve Problems,
Be Nice.*

Dial 911 for Emergencies

www.nbfr.org

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Ordinance #71 is to protect the people and property within Coloma Charter Township against health, safety, environmental and fire hazards caused by the burning near roads, streets, places, buildings and structures, both public and private; to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the community by regulating methods of burning of materials; to encourage alternative methods of disposing of natural and biodegradable materials.

GENERAL PROHIBITIONS

All out-of-doors burning of material shall be prohibited, except as provided for in this Ordinance. **No wood treated with creosote, wolmanized, pressure treated or otherwise painted or stained may be burned. Asphalt or fiberglass roofing material, tires, trash, garbage and other household or industrial refuse may not be burned.**

Burning shall be prohibited if it is determined by the NBFR Fire Chief or his/her designee that conditions are such that burning would be hazardous to the health, safety and general welfare of persons or property in the community. Any person who refuses to extinguish open burning after being informed by a NBFR fire fighter, police officer or other Township officer or employee of this determination shall be in violation of this Ordinance.

SANCTIONS

Any violation of Ordinance #71 shall be deemed to be a municipal civil infraction as defined by Michigan Statute which shall be punishable by a civil fine determined in accordance with the schedule of fees outlined in Ordinance #71. Fines range from \$75.00 to \$500.00 with potentially additional costs as well as increasing costs for multiple infractions.

BURNING PERMITS

Burning Permits are issued by the Coloma Charter Township or the NBFR Fire Chief. Completion of a burn permit form is required prior to open burning that requires a burn permit. All Open burning is required to have a burn permit issued with the exception of Leaf Burning, and Fire Pits and Camp- fires.

OPEN BURNING - GENERAL PROVISIONS

Except as provided elsewhere in this Ordinance, no open burning (defined as out-of-doors burning on the ground) shall be established or maintained unless in compliance with the following provisions:

- A permit for such burning has been issued.
- The burning shall be attended to at all times by a person of at least 16 years of age.
- Material shall be burned in manageable piles such that reasonable precautions are taken to avoid the escape thereof.
- Only paper, cardboard, dry leaves, brush and clean untreated lumber may be burned.
- The burning shall be at least fifteen feet from the traveled portion of any road.
- The burning shall be at least twenty-five feet from any structure including, but not limited to, fencing, wood piles, sheds, outbuildings, and utility poles.
- No burning shall be permitted within one thousand feet of a school while it is in session until after 4:00 p.m.
- The burning shall be at least five feet from any public or private property lines.
- The burning shall be prohibited within a 24-hour period preceding and during any Halloween Trick-or-Treat hours established by the Township Board.
- Ash or waste from any fire shall not be deposited in the storm gutters adjoining or within the public streets and highways within the Township.

PROVISIONS FOR LEAF BURNING

No out-of-doors burning of leaves shall be conducted unless in compliance with the following provisions:

- No burning permit is required for such burning.
- The burning shall be attended to at all times by a person of at least 16 years of age.
- The leaves shall be burned in manageable piles such that reasonable precautions are taken to avoid the escape thereof.
- Only dry leaves may be burned.
- The burning of leaves shall only be allowed from September 1st through May 15th of the following year or such additional period as the Township Board shall deem necessary.
- The burning shall commence after sunrise.
- The burning shall not be located on the traveled portion of any road.
- The burning shall be at least fifteen feet from any structure including, but not limited to, fencing, wood piles, sheds, outbuildings and utility poles.
- No burning shall be permitted within one thousand feet of a school while it is in session until after 4:00 p.m.
- The burning shall be at least five feet from any public or private property lines.
- The burning shall be prohibited within a 24-hour period preceding and during any Halloween Trick-or-Treat hours established by the Township Board.
- Ash or waste from any such fire shall not be deposited in the storm gutters adjoining or within the public streets and highways within the Township.