

**Residents may have recreational fire subject to the following rules and regulations:**

- The camp fire will be no larger than 3 feet by 3 feet and 2 feet tall.
- All campfires will be completely extinguished by 12 am midnight. No fires shall burn between the hours of 12 am midnight to 6am in the morning.
- A portable fire extinguisher with a minimum of a 4A rating or garden hose, bucket of sand or other suitable means for extinguishing the fire must be provided.
- Only clean firewood can be used. No man-made materials, yard waste, brush or construction lumber of any kind.
- *The fire must not create an offensive or objectionable condition that interferes with the neighboring residents' use and enjoyment of their property. If this occurs, the Fire Division is required to order the person responsible for the fire to extinguish the fire or extinguish it itself.*

Incident #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

VWFD Apparatus: \_\_\_\_\_

**The recreational fire that you were conducting today had to be ordered extinguished for the following reason(s):**

- Open recreational fire conducted too close to combustible materials or structure (min. of 25 feet required or 15 feet if contained in an approved container)
- Fire exceeded permitted size of 3 feet diameter and 2 feet height
- Unapproved materials being burned (rubbish/yard waste, plastic materials etc., only clean dried firewood may be burned)
- Fire not constantly attended or no extinguisher available
- Fire created an offensive or objectionable situation to neighboring property owners
- Fire created a hazardous or dangerous condition
- Police matter



## **Open Burning Requirements for Recreational Fires in the City of Van Wert**

**Van Wert Fire Department**

**Tel: 419-238-4918**

[vwfd@vanwertfd.org](mailto:vwfd@vanwertfd.org)

**Van Wert, Ohio USA**  
**"Welcome Home"**

The Ohio Fire Code is the minimum standard for fire safety in the State of Ohio. These rules are promulgated and adopted by the Ohio Division of State Fire Marshal and become statewide law that the City of Van Wert must comply with. In addition, the Ohio Administrative Code regulates open burning activities and is enforced by the Ohio EPA and locally by the Regional Air Pollution and Control Agency. The Van Wert Fire Department receives many requests for information related to open burning requirements. The most common request is for information concerning the requirements for having a recreational fire within the City limits. The City of Van Wert will consider any outdoor fire that are burning materials other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, or barbecue pit and has a total fuel area of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes as a recreational fire. The Ohio Administrative Code contains additional provisions for open burning within restricted areas that applies to the City of Van Wert, because of our population and the fact that we are located within an incorporated area. In these rules **yard waste materials can not be burned at anytime.**

**If you need further information concerning open burning , please contact: Van Wert Fire Department  
(419) 238-4918.**

**Additional Resources**

If you require additional information, you may also refer to the following:

**Ohio Fire Marshal's Office**  
**[www.com.ohio.gov/fire/](http://www.com.ohio.gov/fire/) Ohio**

**EPA**  
**[www.epa.state.oh.us](http://www.epa.state.oh.us)**

**Ohio EPA - Open Burning**  
**<http://epa.ohio.gov/portals/47/facts/openburn.pdf>**



- ***The Fire Division is required to extinguish fires, which create hazardous conditions.***
- The most common complaint from neighbors is when recreational fires are not conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations, or when the environmental conditions cause the smoke to migrate off of the property into the residence of neighboring property. Persons with chronic breathing problems can often times be affected by these conditions.
- Another issue that commonly comes up associated with recreational fires, is noise and disturbance of the neighborhood when these events extend late into the evening. This is a police matter and will be dealt with by the Van Wert Police Department.
- ***If the Fire Division orders you to extinguish your fire due to non-compliance with the rules and regulations, or the fire creates an offensive or objectionable condition, you are bound by Ohio law to comply with the request. Failure to do so may result in you being charged with violation of the open burning regulations.***