

**City of Asheville
Fire Marshal's Office
PROCEDURE TO OBTAIN AN OPEN BURNING PERMIT**

Open burning and Bonfires are allowed only when specifically permitted by the WNC Regional Air Quality Agency. In their letter to the Asheville City Manager dated June 5, 2001, the agency states it cannot allow open burning within municipalities where public trash pick-up is available. This is defined in their rule 1903(b)(1)(B). Machine piled debris or the use of an air curtain device for land clearing burning may be allowed under a special permit issued by their office **and** a permit issued by the Asheville Fire-Rescue Dept. **The owner of the property must apply for the permit where the burning will occur.**

Permit Applications, which typically take 2-3 business days to process, are available at the One Stop Development Center located at:

Building Safety Department
161 S. Charlotte St.
P.O. Box 7148, Asheville, NC
Phone: (828) 259-5846

Permit Requirements:

Three (3) sets of site plans must be submitted for approval prior to installation. You must also submit a copy of your WNC Regional Air Quality Agency approval. An inspection shall be required before the permit is issued. The following is a list of requirements:

- 1) Open burning not less than 50' from any structure. Fires in approved containers can be within 15' of structure
- 2) Show all structures on your site plan with dimensions to the burning location.
- 3) Approved fire extinguishing agent (water hose, extinguisher, bulldozer, etc)
- 4) Constant attendance until fire is completely extinguished.
- 5) Flammable and combustible liquids cannot be used.

Recreational fires are exempt from permitting, when meeting all of the following:

- The recreational fire cannot exceed 3 feet in diameter or 2 feet in height and must not contain rubbish, trash, or building materials.

- The fire must be constantly attended and have an UL rated 4-A fire extinguisher, water hose, or other fire extinguishing material available for immediate use.
- Recreational fires must be a least 25 feet away from structures or combustible materials.
- Asheville Fire and Rescue urges citizens to be extremely careful if they choose to have recreational fires.

Definitions:

Open Burning is defined as burning of materials wherein products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack of chimney from an enclosed chamber.

Bonfire is an outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes.

Recreational Fire is an outdoor fire that has a total fuel area of 3ft or less in diameter and 2ft or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth, or similar purposes.

Important Notice:

Debris burning is the number one cause of wildfires in North Carolina and trash burning is illegal within the Asheville city limits. Fines for violations range from \$500 to \$10,000, excluding the costs associated with extinguishment of the fire. The mere possession of a permit is not a defense to suppression costs associated with a wildfire that must be extinguished by the City of Asheville.

**Please call (828) 259-5441
at least 48 hours in advance to request your site inspection.**