

Potterville Benton Township Fire Department
Burning Rules & Regulation: Areas Zoned Residential
“City of Potterville & Benton Township”
Effective May 2008

RECREATIONAL BURNING; Recreational Burning Requires a Permit

1. Open burning (on the ground) shall **ONLY** be allowed in areas zoned residential or agricultural.
2. Burning barrels are **NOT** allowed in the “City of Potterville”.
3. Only recreational fires are allowed in areas zoned residential. The material to be burned shall consist of natural firewood **ONLY**. No construction materials, yard waste, brush, leaves, rubbish, etc. may be burned at any time.
4. A permit issued by the fire department is required for all open burning within the City and Township and is valid for the calendar year. Requests for burning permits are to be received at the fire station located at 4713 Hartel Road, Potterville MI. during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.
5. The burning permit shall only be issued to the homeowner and/or resident of the property.
6. Recreational burning permits are valid from sunrise to 11:00 p.m.
7. There shall be no burning within 25 feet of any structure or combustible material.
8. The burning area must be at least 5 feet within your property line.
9. The burning area may not exceed three (3) feet in diameter and two (2) feet in height.
10. The burning area shall be constantly attended by an individual over the age of 18 years old and knowledgeable in the use of fire extinguishing equipment. The attendant shall supervise the fire until it has been extinguished. A source of water must be near the fire at all times.
11. You shall not use any petroleum products to start the fire or keep it going.
12. The smoke from the fire must not be offensive to your neighbors.
13. The Fire Chief and/or his/her authorized representative have the authority to discontinue the permit if the smoke creates a nuisance or hazardous conditions are present.
14. The Fire Chief and/or his/her authorized representative reserve the right to enter the premises/property to ensure proper compliance to the Burning Rules & Regulations.
15. The resident is responsible to provide the burning permit for inspection and/or surrender upon request.

OUTDOOR FIREPLACES: Outdoor fireplaces are permitted, without a permit, with the following restrictions:

1. The outdoor fireplace is commercially made, intended to be burned in, and not modified from its original purpose.
2. The outdoor fireplace is constructed of metal and *stands above the ground* on metal legs or other approved materials that conform to the local building codes
3. No yard waste may be burned in an outdoor fireplace in area zoned residential at any time.

Persons found to be in violation of the Burning Regulations shall be subject to a fine. **NO WARNINGS SHALL BE ISSUED.** Fines for violating the Potterville Benton Township Burning Ordinances is \$500.00.

Note: Once an annual permit is issued failure to call the fire department at 517.645.7061 ext. 5 to obtain authorization to burn for each and/or every day will be considered as if no permit was ever issued and will be fined twice the rate.

Potterville Benton Township Fire Department
Burning Rules & Regulation: Areas Zoned Agricultural
Benton Township
Effective May 2008

DOMESTIC FIRES: (Burning of Yard Waste) Not Allowed In The City Of Potterville

1. Domestic fires may be permitted in all areas of the Benton Township zoned A-1 or A-2 any time during the calendar year between the hours of sunrise and sunset. Domestic fires are defined as "the burning of yard waste only."
2. Open burning is allowed in areas zoned Residential; 1 or 2 and Agricultural; A1 or A2. A burning permit is required for all open burning.
3. The burning permit applicant must come to the fire department to properly complete an application.
4. Requests for burning permits are to be received between the hours of 8:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M. at 4713 Hartel Road, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.
5. Permits are issued annually; the resident is responsible to provide the burning permit for inspection and/or surrender upon request.
6. You must be physically in attendance at the fire at all times. The permit is valid for sunrise to sunset.
7. You must burn in your own yard, at least five feet from the property line and minimum of 25 feet from any structure or combustible material.
8. You shall not use any petroleum products to start the fire or to keep it going.
9. You shall burn only what grows in you own yard. (yard waste).
10. A source of water must be near the fire at all times.
11. The brush shall be smaller that (3) three inches in diameter. **NO STUMPS, LOGS OR BUILDING MATERIALS SHALL BE BURNED.**
12. The brush pile cannot be any larger than 4' X 4' X 4'.
13. Smoke must nor be offensive to your neighbors.

BURNING BARRELS: (Not Allowed In The City Of Potterville)

1. Burning barrels are allowed only in Residential; 1 or 2 and Agricultural; A1 or A2.
2. The container must be fire proof, constructed of metal or masonry, with an approved spark arrester or screen with openings not more than 3/4" in diameter.
3. The container must be at leave five feet from the property line and fifteen feet from any combustible object.
4. You must burn on your own property only. Renter must receive permission to burn from the property owner.
5. You may burn only Class A (paper, cardboard and yard waste) products. No food, plastics, diapers, cans or garbage can be burned at any time.
6. You may burn only yard waste that is grown or has originated on your own property. No material may be brought in from another residence or location to be burned in Benton Township.
7. You may burn only between the hours of sunrise and sunset. The fire must be completely out by dark
8. The smoke must not be offensive to your neighbors.
9. You shall not use any petroleum products to start the fire or keep it going.

Persons found to be in violation of the Burning Regulations shall be subject to a fine. **NO WARNINGS SHALL BE ISSUED.** Fines for violating the Potterville Benton Township Burning Ordinances is \$500.00.

Note: Once an annual permit is issued failure to call the fire department at 517.645.7061 ext. 5 to obtain authorization to burn for each and/or every day will be considered as if no permit was ever issued and will be fined twice the rate.