



## BON FIRES / RECREATIONAL FIRES / OPEN BURNING

### 2009 International Fire Code (IFC) adopted by the City of Rockford ORDINANCE NO. 2010-123-0 and Amendments

#### Section 302 Definitions

**302.1 Definitions.** The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this chapter and as used elsewhere in this code, have the meanings shown herein.

**Bonfire.** An outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes. A bonfire shall not be more than 5 feet (1524 mm) by 5 feet (1524 mm) in dimension and shall not burn longer than 3 hours.

**Recreational Fire.** An outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish with a total fuel area of 3 feet (914 mm) or less in diameter and 2 feet (610 mm) or less in height for cooking food for human consumption.

**Open Burning.** The 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. Open burning does not include road flares, smudgepots and similar devices associated with safety or occupational uses typically considered open flames, recreational fires, or use of portable outdoor fireplaces. For the purpose of this definition, a chamber shall be regarded as enclosed when during the time combustion occurs, only apertures, ducts, stacks, flues or chimneys necessary to provide combustion air and permit the escape of exhaust gas are open.

#### Section 307 Open Burning and Recreational Fires

**307.1 General.** A person shall not kindle or maintain or authorize to be kindled or maintained any open burning unless conducted and approved in accordance with this section.

**307.1.1 Prohibited open burning.** Open burning that is offensive or objectionable because of smoke or odor emissions when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited. The fire code official is authorized to order extinguishment by the permit holder or the fire department of open burning which creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation.

**307.2 Permit Required.** A permit shall be obtained from the fire code official in accordance with Section 105.6 prior to kindling a fire recognized silvicultural or range wildfire management practices, prevention or control of disease or pests, or bonfire. Application for such approval shall only be presented by and permits issued to the owner of the land upon which the fire is to be kindled.

**307.2.1 Authorization.** Where required by state or local law or regulations, open burning shall only be permitted with prior approval from the state or local air and water quality management authority, provided that all conditions specified in the authorization are followed.

**307.3 Extinguishment Authority.** The fire code official is authorized to order the extinguishment by the permit holder, another person responsible or the fire department of open burning that creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation.

**307.4 Location.** The location for open burning shall not be less than 50 feet (15 240mm) from any structure, and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 50 feet of any structure.

**307.4.1 Bonfires.** A bonfire shall not be conducted within 50 feet of a structure or combustible material. Conditions which would cause a fire to spread within 50 feet (15 240 mm) of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

**307.4.1.1 Material.** Fuel for a bonfire shall consist only of seasoned dry firewood and other material approved by the code official. The bonfire shall be ignited with a small quantity of paper. The fire shall not be utilized for waste disposal purposes, and the fuel shall be chosen to minimize the generation of air contaminants.

**307.4.1.2 Permit.**

All permits, required by section 105.6.31, shall be requested by and issued to the owner of the land upon which the bonfire is to be kindled.

**307.4.2 Recreational Fires.** Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

**307.4.3 Portable Outdoor Fireplaces.** Portable outdoor fireplaces shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**307.5 Attendance.** Open burning, bonfires, or recreational fires shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher complying with Section 906 with a minimum 4-A rating or other approved on-site fire-extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck, shall be available for immediate utilization.