



# Bettendorf

## Fire, Rescue & EMS Department

### ***Recreational Fires & Open Burning in the City of Bettendorf***

#### **City of Bettendorf Municipal Code Sec. 4-3-1 Burning Leaves and Other Material:**

A. Prohibited Burning; Exceptions; Permit and Fee: Leaves, trees, tree trimmings, grass, rubbish, residential waste, or garbage shall not be burned within the city, except as follows:

1. Fireplaces, wood burning stoves, and barbecue grills may be used for the purposes intended by such items.

2. Open fires for cooking, heating, recreation and ceremonies shall be allowed when such fire is not composed in whole or substantial part of leaves and the location of such fire, and the items necessary for its containment, comply with the provisions of the fire code. However, all such fires shall be limited as follows:



a. No fire shall continue beyond ten o'clock (10:00) P.M.

b. No property shall be used for a fire as allowed in this subsection A2 more than once in a seven (7) consecutive day period.

3. Upon permit of the fire chief, and payment of a ten dollar (\$10.00) permit fee, the following additional items may be burned:

a. Disaster rubbish resulting from cleanup of an area within specifically designated disaster areas.

b. Trees and tree trimmings by a local governmental entity.

c. Waste gases via a flare stack.

d. Landscape waste such as vegetable matter waste produced in clearing, grubbing and construction.

e. Training fires as set for bona fide training of public or industrial employees in firefighting methods.

f. Paper/plastic pesticide containers and seed corn bags resulting from farming activities occurring on the premises.

B. Conditions Of Permit: All such permits shall be subject to compliance by the applicant with the fire code, and any regulation in the Iowa administrative code regarding such activity. (2008 Code § 11-2)

## Location

- A burn pit, cleared area or commercially available pit may be used for burning.
- Fires shall not be conducted within 50 feet of a structure or combustible materials.

**Exceptions:** The distance can be reduced to 25 feet when the burn pile is limited to 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height.

The distance can be reduced to 15 feet minimum IF a self-contained commercial unit with complete protection (such as screen with lid) is used.

## Attendant required

- Fires shall be constantly attended and supervised until the fire is extinguished.
- Fires are not safe when winds exceed 15 mph.
- Use common sense and respect your neighbors by not allowing smoke to blow toward their home, laundry, etc.

## Equipment Needed

- Buckets, shovels, garden hoses, or a fire extinguisher (4A minimum rated) shall be readily available for use by the attendant.

## Examples of a Recreational Fire

*Outdoor fire with friends enjoying the evening; or cooking hot dogs.*

*The requirements of Section 4-3-1 of the Municipal Code must be met. (No permit is required for a recreational fire.)*

***(See the "Examples of Illegal Burning" section for items that are not allowed to be burned.)***

## Discontinuance

- The Fire Department and Police Department are authorized to require fires (permit or recreational) to be immediately extinguished.

## Burn Bans

- The City of Bettendorf complies with ALL burn bans issued by the County, or State of Iowa

## Illegal Burning

- Illegal burning can result in a municipal citation. The Bettendorf Police Department follows up on burn complaints and may issue a warning or citation for failure to comply with the burning provisions of the Municipal Code for either a recreational fire or open burning.

**Examples of Illegal Burning** *Illegal burning includes, but is not limited to burning of the following:*

*leaves, grass, garbage, tires, dead animals, rubber products, paint, used oil, tar, plastic, contaminated wood, treated wood, pallets, cardboard, railroad ties, or construction material including processed lumber.*

## Permit Required

- A Permit is required to conduct Open Burning in the City of Bettendorf. Permits must be readily available at the burn site to the Fire or Police Department upon request.

*Open Burning through Permit Examples: brush, tree limbs, prairie grass projects.*

**An Open Burning Permit is NOT required for Recreational Fires!**

To apply for a Permit to Open Burn, contact:

**Bettendorf Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services 1609 State Street  
Bettendorf, IA 52722  
Phone: (563) 344-4030**

Visit us on the World Wide Web!  
[www.bettendorf.org/firedept](http://www.bettendorf.org/firedept)