

# Macomb Township Fire Department

## Fire and Life Safety Tips

### August 2010

### Open Burning

**A permit is required to burn within Macomb Township, a permit can be obtained at Macomb Township Fire Department Satation4. Fire Station 4 is located at 16820 25 Mile Road, cross street of Romeo Plank.** Weather can change rapidly, especially in the spring, and the township will determine on a regular basis when it is safe to conduct open burning. If winds kick up or other atmospheric conditions change suddenly, making it unsafe to burn permits can be rescinded (cancelled). This permit is issued in accordance with Act No. 329 of the Public Act of Michigan of 1969 (MCL 320.24 MSA 13.267 (4)), as amended. Permits shall be obtained during normal business hours from the station located on 25 Mile Road (Monday through Friday)



Open burning shall **NOT** be allowed closer than 100 feet from any structure. Burning shall take place during daylight hours only.

#### Permit Fees

- There is currently no fees for burning permits

#### Burning shall not be permitted in:

- Platted subdivisions
- Site condominiums
- Attached condominiums
- Apartments
- Mobile Home Parks

#### Burning in these areas is permitted if the burning is in an enclosed device as described as below.

- *Enclosed Devices.* Enclosed devices (metal-with grating or ceramic) where fire is fueled by charcoal or seasoned dry wood are permitted in all sections of the township notwithstanding subsection (b) with the following conditions:
  - The approved container must be a minimum of fifteen (15) feet from any structure, including a deck, garage or storage building.
  - The fire must be attended by an adult until it is completely extinguished.
  - The approved container must rest on an impervious, nonflammable base.
  - The use of dug-out or below grade fire pits are prohibited.

#### With a permit Burning of the following materials is allowed:

- Brush, logs, branches and tree stumps

#### Burning of the following materials are prohibited:

- Construction and demolition
- Waste, garbage, refuse, trash, rubbish
- Animal carcasses, , tires, , hedge clippings,
- Leaves, grass or any like material giving off foul odors of any kind

### **How to safely ignite a fire:**

- An adult should always be present during open burning
- Children and pets should be kept a safe distance away.
- Use paper or kindling to start a fire and add progressively larger pieces of wood
- Never use gasoline, kerosene or any other flammable liquid to start a fire! The risk of injury in these cases is very high.
- Burn one pile at a time and slowly add to it. This will keep the fire from getting out of control
- Select a location away from all utility lines.

### **Size of area for open burning**

- The size of the area for open burning shall be limited to five (5) by five (5) feet unless otherwise approved in the open burning permit.

### **Fire must be attended until completely extinguished**

- Do not leave your fire burning unattended.

### **Fire control tools and water supply**

- A water supply can be a pressurized fire extinguisher, a pump can or garden hose, be sure to test it before igniting the fire. Be sure the water supply is proper working order.
- If using water hose check to see if water is on, no kinks in hose , and no cracks in hose.

### **Watch the wind: Be prepared to extinguish all open burning**

- It is unsafe to burn during high winds. Use common sense and don't wait for the fire department to contact you that it is unsafe to burn. Sudden wind changes can affect how fast the fire can spread and get out of control.

### **Do not delay a call for help**

- If you feel the fire has got out of control call **911 Do not delay calling**
- Use the utmost caution to prevent injury to yourself or family members or any damage by fire to your home.

### **Environmental Affects**

- Open burning releases large amounts of carbon monoxide, other gases and solid substances into the air which can contribute to respiratory problems
- These gases can also be giving off foul odors which is against township ordinances

### **Open burning alternatives**

- Chipping of branches and limbs.
  - These chippings can be used as landscaping materials
- Composting of limbs brush and forestry debris is also an alternative

To view the Macomb Township Code of Ordinance Pertaining to Open Burning, use the following link below.

<http://www.macomb-mi.gov/Fire/OpenBurningChapter6.pdf>