



Date: 05.17.2021

CITY OF MONROE BURN ORDINANCE AMENDED: RECREATIONAL FIRES ALLOWED

Monroe, Michigan – At the April 19th regular meeting, the Monroe City Council adopted an ordinance adding a new chapter to the existing fire prevention code: Chapter 346 – Fire Prevention: Recreational Fires and Outdoor Portable Fireplaces.

The City of Monroe’s Fire Prevention code now allows for recreational fires in outdoor fireplaces on residential owner occupied properties. According to the new language, recreational fires must be contained inside a UL listed device such as a chimenea, fire pit with a spark arrestor or outdoor fireplace with appropriate screening. Fires in approved containers should be 15 feet or more from any structure or combustible material.

The city’s burning ordinance also specifically prohibits the burning of refuse and building waste materials. Only clean wood should be burned, which is natural wood that has not been painted, varnished or coated with a similar material; has not been pressure treated with preservatives; and does not contain resins or glues as in plywood or other composite wood products.

Additional parameters from the Monroe Fire Department include the following:

- The outdoor fireplace must be UL listed and have appropriate screening and spark suppression.
- Fireplaces should be used on a stable level surface.
- Fireplaces should not be used on any combustible deck, porch or patio.
- Fireplaces must not be located within 15 feet of a structure or combustible materials (such as fences, buildings, debris piles, flammable vegetation/trees, etc.)
- Wood must be CLEAN and DRY without creosote. No construction materials, yard waste or trash can be burned.
- If there is objectionable smoke, the fire must be extinguished. Be a good neighbor – reduce smoke production by not burning wet wood.
- If wind direction causes the smoke to invade neighboring structures, the fire must be extinguished.
- Fire extinguishing mediums must be provided, such as an appropriate fire extinguisher, a garden hose, dirt or sand.
- The fire must be constantly attended by a responsible adult.
- The fire must be completely extinguished after use.
- If the fireplace is a propane unit, only propane shall be burned.

Fire Chief Robert Wight: “I am pleased to announce the Monroe City Council passed a new ordinance which will allow the use of UL approved outdoor fireplaces. I encourage all residents to review this ordinance and operate these fireplaces in a safe and secure manner.”

Residents are encouraged to visit the City of Monroe website, www.monroemi.gov, for more information, including examples of approved outdoor fireplaces. Additionally, the City of Monroe Fire Department can assist with answering specific questions or overall guidance at 734.241.1626.

About the City of Monroe

Incorporated in 1817, the City of Monroe is a community that has a shared vision that seeks to balance the opportunities of economic development with the stewardship that is required for historic preservation. With a population of 20,733, Monroe is located about 17-miles north of Toledo, Ohio and about 35-miles south of Detroit. The City of Monroe is Michigan's third oldest community, and is also the county seat of Monroe County. Continually moving forward with innovative vision, the City of Monroe is Raisin' Expectations.

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OUTDOOR FIREPLACES

What You Need to Know



CITY OF
MONROE

Buy UL approved device - chiminea, patio warmer or other portable wood burning device.

Follow the manufacture's recommendations when assembling and using the device.

Use a spark arrestor/fire screen every time.

Burn only clean, dry wood.

Place the fireplace at least 15 feet from any structure.

Make sure the fire is constantly attended by a responsible adult and fully extinguished when done with an appropriate fire extinguisher, a garden hose, dirt or sand.

Don't build an uncontained campfire - no 'campground style' fire pits or rings. *Fire must be contained in a UL rated portable wood burning device.*

Don't forget the fire screen - no unfiltered sparks flying.

Don't burn refuse like yard waste, plastics, packaging, etc., or waste wood like painted or treated lumber.

Don't place your outdoor fireplace on a wood deck or patio.

Don't be a nuisance neighbor - be considerate of smoke and don't burn wet wood.

DO
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LOOKS LIKE
SKOOL

YES

NO



MORE INFORMATION



www.monroemi.gov