CHAPTER 96
OPEN BURNING

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96.01 BURNING WITHIN CORPORATE LIMITS.

No person shall burn or cause to be burned any trash, refuse, shavings, paper, leaves, litter, or other material of any kind outside any house on or in any street, sidewalk, alley, lot or yard within the town limits. In accordance with the North Carolina Division of Air Quality, in any municipality that provides yard debris pickup, the burning of yard debris is not allowed.

For commercial developers the following additional rules shall apply:
(1) Developer’s material to be burned shall not be within 100 feet of any unoccupied structure or within 300 feet of a property line.
(2) Developers shall be required to obtain a permit from the Town Hall which shall stipulate the dates burning may occur.
(3) Open burning not within 500 feet of an occupied dwelling is subject to N.C. Forestry regulations and permits.
(4) When atmospheric or other conditions dictate, a burning ban may be issued by the Town, County or State. In this event the developer shall be notified by the town and the dates on permit revised. (Ord. passed 5-11-93; Am. Ord. passed 11-08-05)
Penalty, see § 10.99
(5) Must be attended and supervised by an adult at all times until fire is completely extinguished.

96.02 BONFIRE PERMITS.

No person shall kindle or maintain for any bonfire or shall knowingly furnish the material for any such fire or authorize any such fire to be kindled or maintained on or in any street, avenue, road, or lane or public ground or upon any private property lot within the limits of the town unless a written permit so to shall have first been secured from the Town Hall. (Ord. passed 5-11-93; Am. Ord. passed 11-08-05) Penalty, see § 10.99

96.03 RECREATIONAL FIRE REGULATIONS *

Recreational fires have become an important part of our outdoor experience. In order to ensure that these types of experiences can continue without creating safety hazards or a nuisance the recreational fire regulations listed below have been developed.

a) Open burning of lumber, pallets, wooden shingles, scrap wood, brush, tree trimmings, leaves, yard waste, cardboard, paper, garbage, and other similar items, is not permitted.
   The Town provides scheduled curb side yard debris pickup of natural yard waste.

b) Recreational fires are permitted under the following conditions:

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a) Only natural firewood cut in short lengths appropriate to the size of the container may be burned. A starter lighter log, wood shavings or charcoal lighter fluid may be used to ignite the firewood. The use of other flammable or combustible liquid accelerants is not permitted. The fire must be contained in a freestanding fire pit, metal ring or pit.

b) Manufactured open burning designed fire rings or pits must be located a minimum of fifteen (15) feet away from any structures or combustibles, such as houses, garages, sheds, wood piles and wooden fences.

c) Manufactured freestanding closed design fire pits must be located a minimum of five (5) feet away from any structures or combustibles and be operated in compliance with the manufacturers requirements, whichever is greater.

d) A campfire style fire pit or a recreational fire with a barricade, not exceeding 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height, must be located a minimum of 25 feet away from any structure or combustible material.

e) The fire must be constantly attended and supervised by an adult until the fire has been completely extinguished.

f) A connected garden hose or other means to extinguish the fire must be readily available.

g) Recreational fires are not permitted on windy days with sustained winds of 15 mph or more.

h) Fires on commercial or industrial sites or sites with construction activities require a permit. Recreational fires are not permitted on sites with construction activity.

i) The Town’s Fire Inspector is authorized to require that a recreational fire be immediately extinguished and discontinued if it is determined that the fire is not in compliance with the above rules, the smoke is offensive, or the burning is determined to constitute a hazardous condition.

96.04 CHARCOAL AND GAS GRILL FIRES.

It shall be unlawful for any person to light, kindle, operate or maintain a charcoal or gas barbecue grill of any type whatsoever and leave the same unattended.

96.05 LOTS TO BE KEPT FREE FROM FIRE HAZARDS.

It shall be unlawful for any person to permit rubbish, refuse or articles of combustible or inflammable nature to accumulate or remain on any lot or premise. It shall be the responsibility of the Town Fire Inspector.

96.06 PENALTY FOR VIOLATION

For violation of any of the above sections, For Penalty, see § 10.99. Fire is prima facie evidence of neglect of those provisions.

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