



STATE FIRE MARSHAL

• Spring 2018 •

Spring Cleaning Fire Safety

We're finally thawing out here in Ohio, and that means it's time for some spring cleaning! As you begin your spring cleaning, remove clutter that may have built up over the winter months, including boxes, papers and other combustible materials taking up space in your home.



Paper & Boxes

Never store paper products near furnaces and water heaters. Move these items away from those appliances or discard them in your community recycle bins.

Avoid burning boxes and other paper items in fireplaces, wood stoves, outdoor fire pits and bonfires. Embers from paper products can be carried away by rising heat from fire and spread to neighboring buildings and properties. Paper also adds layers of creosote to your chimney, which can build up over time and cause chimney fires.



Clothes Dryers

While most people were taught to clean the lint trap inside their clothes dryer, it is equally as important to clean behind and under the dryer, as well. The tubing coming from the back of the dryer – as well as the rigid vent pipes leading outside – can clog with lint and dust, leading to a potential fire hazard.

If your dryer is taking too long to dry clothes or you smell something odd each time you use it, immediately check all vents, pipes and tubes coming from the back of the dryer. Additionally, do not operate your dryer while you're not home or sleeping.



Smoke Alarms

Just because you've changed the batteries in your smoke alarm, doesn't mean it cannot still malfunction. Dust can accumulate inside a smoke alarm, causing a malfunction or leading to nuisance alarms. That means you should vacuum your alarms to get rid of any dust. Use the soft brush attachment on a traditional vacuum cleaner or a hand vacuum, to reach up and gently clean the alarm of any possible dust buildup. While you're there, make sure to check the date of the alarm to ensure it's not more than 10 years old. Manufacturers recommend replacing smoke alarms before 10 years so you always have the protection your household needs.

Many hazards can easily be found and corrected if you take the time during your spring cleaning efforts. [Check out the Home Fire Safety Checklist](#) for some help!

John R. Kasich,
Governor, State of Ohio

Jacqueline T. Williams
Director, Ohio Dept. of Commerce

Jeff A. Hussey
State Fire Marshal



Department of Commerce

Division of State Fire Marshal

John R. Kasich, Governor
Jacqueline T. Williams, Director

8895 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
Toll-Free 888-243-0305
TTY/TDD: 800-750-0750
www.com.ohio.gov/fire
Twitter @OhioFire

Home Fire Safety Check List

A residential fire occurs every half hour in Ohio. How safe is your home from fire? To determine the safety of your home from fire hazards, study these questions with your family. Every "yes" answer indicates a positive fire safety situation. However, every "no" answer points to a fire hazard that needs to be corrected.

Matches/lighters and Careless Smoking Hazards

- | | Yes | No |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Do you keep matches and lighters away from sources of heat? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you make sure matches and smoking materials are out before disposing of them? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you have plenty of large, noncombustible ash trays in every room? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is "No Smoking in Bed" a rule in your home? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you use ash trays outside to avoid mulch fires? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Electrical Hazards

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Do you have qualified electricians install or extend your wiring? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| When you buy electrical equipment and appliances, do you always look for the UL label of Underwriters Laboratories Inc.? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are there enough electrical outlets in every room to avoid the need for multiple attachment plugs and long extension cords? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are there proper heat controls on your electrical iron and all electrical appliances used for cooking? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you have adequate circuit breaker fuses for the equipment used in your home? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are all extension cords of the right size, in the open, not under rugs or through partitions or openings, and are they for temporary use only? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is there adequate wiring in all room for today's electronics? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Heating and Cooking Hazards

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| If you use oil heat or gas heat, is the equipment listed by the proper laboratories, such as UL or the American Gas Association? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Before the heating season begins, do you have your heating system inspected and serviced? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Heating and Cooking Hazards

(continued)

- | | Yes | No |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| If you have a wood burning stove, has it been installed properly according to manufacturers instructions? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you burn seasoned wood and is it stored in the proper place? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are all vent connectors and flue pipes that pass through attics, floors, ceilings and walls properly installed? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you clean your chimney at least once a year? (More often if it is used more regularly) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is your kitchen stove, including the oven and the broiler, kept clean of grease? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do all portable heaters in your home bear the label of Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or some other recognized safety testing agency? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If you use a portable heater, is it placed well away from any and all combustible materials? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you always refill the fuel tank of your kerosene heater outdoors? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Since portable kerosene heaters use up oxygen when they burn, do you always have adequate ventilation? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you always turn off the portable heater when you go to bed? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you make sure that the fuel is not contaminated prior to using it in your kerosene heater? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If using kerosene heaters, do you have working carbon monoxide detectors outside of each sleeping area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is your inside basement door at the head of the stairs properly fitted and kept closed at night? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Has everyone in the family been warned never to use any flammable liquids to start a fire in the stove, fireplace or furnace? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is every fireplace equipped with a sturdy metal fire screen? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

(over)

Housekeeping Hazards

Yes No

- Do you keep your basement, closets and attic clear of rags, papers and other combustible materials? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- If you store paint, varnish, and other items, do you keep the containers tightly closed? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Has everyone in your family been warned never to use gasoline or other flammable liquids for cleaning clothes, furnishings or floors? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Do you clean the lint filter after every use of the dryer? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Do you vacuum and dust your smoke detector? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Yard and Garage Hazards

- Do you keep your yard cleaned of leaves, debris and combustible rubbish? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- If you keep gasoline for use in a power mower or outboard motor, is it stored in a strong, clearly labeled red gasoline safety-type can? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- If your garage is attached to the house, is it separated by a fire-retardant door which is kept closed? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- If you store kerosene, is it placed in an approved blue and white container that is clearly labeled kerosene? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Smoke Detectors

- Do you have a smoke detector installed on every level of your home and in sleeping areas? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Do you test your detector monthly to ensure that it is in proper working order? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Do you change the batteries twice a year at the time change? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Have you replaced your smoke detector if it is 10 years old or older? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Especially for Parents

Yes No

- Do you extinguish candles when you leave the area? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Do you use noncombustible containers to set candles on? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Do you keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Are you careful never to leave children alone in a room with a portable heater or wood stove? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Do you leave a responsible person with your children when you go out, even for a little while? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- When you employ babysitters, do you instruct them carefully on what to do in case of a fire? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Do your children know their address? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- IMPORTANT: A child learns by example as well as by instruction. In regard to fire safety, do you always set a good example? ☐ Yes ☐ No

In Case of Fire

- Do you know the telephone number of your fire department or how to use 911? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Do you know how to call in a fire alarm? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Is there an extinguisher easily accessible in your kitchen and do you know how to use it? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Do you have an escape plan with at least two ways out of every room in your home? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Have you practiced that escape plan by holding fire drills in your home during the day and night? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Have you included caregivers in your drills? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Do you have a central meeting place? ☐ Yes ☐ No

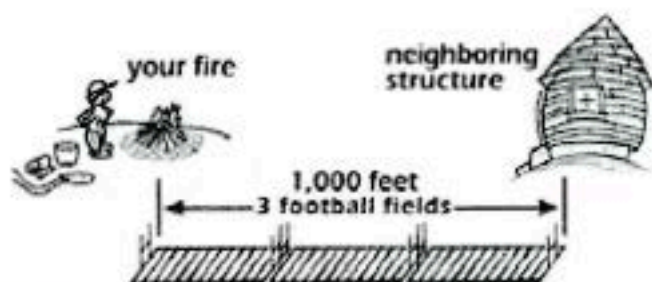


Ohio Department of Commerce
Division of State Fire Marshal
 8895 East Main Street
 Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068
 1-888-243-0305
 TTY/TDD: 1-800-750-0750
www.com.ohio.gov/fire

Ohio | **Department of Commerce**

What You Can Burn in the Neighborhood

Is there less than 1,000 feet from where you want to burn and the nearest inhabitable structure?



Ohio law limits what and where you can open burn. The following fires are allowed if there is less than 1,000 feet from where you want to burn and a neighboring inhabitable structure.

You may have a fire for cooking, warmth, pleasure, ceremonial or similar purposes without notification and/or permission from the Ohio EPA as long as:

- burn only clean, dry, seasoned firewood;
- the fire is no larger than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet high; and
- fire is not used for waste disposal.

Larger ceremonial fires are allowed with these guidelines:

- use only clean, dry, seasoned firewood;
- the fire is no larger than 5 feet in diameter and 5 feet high;
- the fire burns no longer than 3 hours; and
- fire is not used for waste disposal.

If you live in a restricted area, generally within or just outside a municipal boundary, you must provide written notification to the Ohio EPA district office or local air pollution control agency 10 days prior to the fire.



Fires for recognized horticultural, silviculture, prairie management, invasive species management and wildlife control practices are allowed prior notification to Ohio EPA.

- The notification of intent for open burning must be submitted in writing at least 10 working days before the fire is to be set.
- Forms and more information are located at: epa.ohio.gov/dapc/general/openburning
- Please call your local Ohio EPA district, local air pollution control agency and/or local fire department for more information.

Local areas may have more restrictive open burning requirements and local ordinances.

If there is at least 1,000 feet from the nearest neighboring inhabitable structure and your fire location, different regulations may apply.

For more information about Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) open burning regulations please contact your Ohio EPA district and/or local air agency.



Before You Light It... Know Ohio's Open Burning Regulations

Why is open burning a problem?

Open burning can release many kinds of toxic fumes. Leaves and plant materials send aloft millions of spores when they catch fire, causing many people with allergies to have difficulty breathing.

The pollutants released by open burning also make it more difficult to meet health-based air quality standards, especially in or near large cities. The gases released by open burning can also corrode metal siding and damage paint on buildings.

What open burning is never allowed?

Under Ohio law, these materials may not be burned anywhere in the state at any time:

- garbage—any wastes created in the process of handling, preparing, cooking or consuming food;
- materials containing rubber, grease and asphalt or made from petroleum, such as tires, cars and auto parts, plastics or plastic-coated wire; and
- dead animals—unless approved for control of disease by a governing agency.

Other restrictions:

- Open burning is not allowed when air pollution warnings, alerts or emergencies are in effect.
- Fires cannot obscure visibility for roadways, railroad tracks or air fields.
- No wastes generated off the premises may be burned. For example, a tree trimming contractor may not haul branches and limbs to another site to burn.

Does Ohio EPA ever allow exceptions to the rules?

Under certain circumstances, yes. However, to burn a prohibited material or set a fire in a restricted area, you must receive written permission from Ohio EPA *before* you begin burning. This may take two weeks.

Can a community regulate open burning?

Yes. However, local ordinances cannot be less strict than the state law.

What happens if I'm caught illegally open burning?

Ohio EPA has the authority to enforce the state's open burning laws. Violations can result in substantial penalties. If you have any questions, or would like to report a suspected open burning incident, contact your Ohio EPA district office or your local air pollution control agency. See the map in this brochure for the agency to contact in your area.

Health Concerns

Burning household waste produces many toxic chemicals and is one of the largest known sources of dioxin in the nation. Other air pollutants from open burning include particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, lead and mercury.

These pollutants have been linked to several health problems, including asthma, respiratory illnesses, nervous system damage, kidney and liver damage, and reproductive or developmental disorders.

What You Can Do Instead of Open Burning

- Reduce the amount of waste you generate.
- Reuse items in another way.
- Recycle - Contact your waste disposal provider about curb-side pickup or drop-off locations for bulky or hazardous items.
- Compost yard trimmings and food scraps, while creating a natural, free fertilizer.



For a complete copy of Ohio's open burning regulations, contact:

Ohio EPA
Division of Air Pollution Control
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, OH 43216-1049
(614) 644-2270

epa.ohio.gov/dapc/general/openburning



Before You Light It...

Know Ohio's Open Burning Regulations

Open burning is any time you light an outdoor fire without a chimney or stack.










When burning refuse in burn barrels or open piles, the potential cost to your health, your home, your neighbors and your environment far exceeds the price of adequate collection services.

Protect yourself, your neighbors and your wallet by knowing the rules—what you can burn and where.

What can I burn?

The following open fires are **allowed** in Ohio →

Local Air Pollution Control Agencies

-  Akron Regional Air Quality Management District
(800) 589-2480
araqmd.org
-  Canton Division of Air Pollution Control
(330) 489-3385
cantonhealth.org/apc/
-  Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency
(800) 889-0474
southwestohioair.org
-  Regional Air Pollution Control Agency
(800) 458-2115
rapca.org
-  Lake County Air Pollution Control
(440) 350-2543
lchgd.org/?page_id=3687
-  Portsmouth Air Pollution Control
(740) 353-5156
portsmouthoh.org/health/air-division/
-  Toledo Division of Environmental Services
(419) 936-3015
toledo.oh.gov/services/public-utilities/environmental-services/air/
-  Mahoning-Trumbull Air Pollution Control Agency
(330) 743-3333
ychd.com/Services/AirPollution.aspx
-  Cleveland Division of Air Quality
(216) 664-2297
clevelandhealth.org/network/air_quality/air_quality.php

The Division of Air Pollution Control's jurisdictional boundaries for district offices and local air agencies are not the same as Ohio EPA's standard district boundaries. Standard district boundaries, indicated by the dark lines, are for reference only.



Ohio EPA District Offices

-  **CDO** Central District Office
(800) 686-2330* (614) 728-3778
-  **NEDO** Northeast District Office
(800) 686-6330* (330) 963-1200
-  **NWDO** Northwest District Office
(800) 686-6930* (419) 352-8461
-  **SEDO** Southeast District Office
(800) 686-7330* (740) 385-8501

* Toll-free numbers are for calls within Ohio.

TYPE OF FIRE	INSIDE A VILLAGE OR CITY* if generated on property	OUTSIDE A VILLAGE OR CITY* if generated on property
Barbeques, campfires, cookouts	Wood stack no larger than 2 ft. high x 3 ft. wide. Use clean, seasoned firewood or equivalent.	Wood stack no larger than 2 ft. high x 3 ft. wide. Use clean, seasoned firewood or equivalent.
Agricultural waste	Agricultural wastes and plant matter such as tree trimmings, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery and material from crop or livestock production. This includes fence posts and scrap lumber, but does not include buildings, land clearing waste, dead animals or animal waste. Fire must be more than 1,000 feet from neighbor's inhabited building. Must notify Ohio EPA in advance.	Agricultural wastes and plant matter such as tree trimmings, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery and material from crop or livestock production. This includes fence posts and scrap lumber, but does not include buildings, land clearing waste, dead animals or animal waste. Fire must be more than 1,000 feet from neighbor's inhabited building. Request permission from Ohio EPA if pile greater than 20 ft. wide x 10 ft. high (4,000 cubic feet). This may take two weeks.
Land-clearing waste	Not permitted in city limits	Plant matter such as tree trimmings, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery and crop residues. With prior written permission from Ohio EPA. This may take two weeks.
Residential waste	Not permitted in city limits	Plant matter such as tree trimmings, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery and crop residues. Also wastes such as wood or paper products that are generated by one-, two-, or three-family residences. Fire must be more than 1,000 feet from neighbor's inhabited building. Request permission from Ohio EPA if pile greater than 10 ft. x 10 ft. This may take two weeks.
Ceremonial fires	Wood stack no larger than 5 ft. high x 5 ft. wide. Duration no longer than three hours. Use clean, seasoned firewood or equivalent. Must notify Ohio EPA in advance.	Wood stack no larger than 5 ft. high x 5 ft. wide. Duration no longer than three hours. No notification required.
Occupational fires: welding torches, heating tar, heating for warmth of outdoor workers and strikers	Use clean seasoned firewood. For example, a heating fire contained in a 55-gallon drum.	Use clean seasoned firewood. For example, a heating fire contained in a 55-gallon drum.
Firefighter training, Explosive material disposal	With prior written permission from Ohio EPA. This may take two weeks.	With prior written permission from Ohio EPA. This may take two weeks.
Horticultural, silvicultural, prairie management, range or wildlife management practices	With prior notification to Ohio EPA. Notification required at least ten days prior to fire.	With prior notification to Ohio EPA. Notification required at least ten days prior to fire.
Disease or pest control	Local health department, Ohio Department of Agriculture or U.S. Department of Agriculture verifies to Ohio EPA that open burning is the only appropriate control method and must notify Ohio EPA in advance.	Local health department, Ohio Department of Agriculture or U.S. Department of Agriculture verifies to Ohio EPA that open burning is the only appropriate control method.

* villages and cities are considered "restricted areas," which include:

- within the boundaries of any municipal corporation;
 - within corporation limits and a 1,000-foot zone outside any municipal corporation having a population of 1,000 to 10,000; and
 - within corporation limits and a one-mile zone outside any municipal corporation with a population of more than 10,000.
- Call your local municipality for corporation boundaries.