

Unity Township

BURNING REGULATIONS

Burning is permitted in Unity Township in all zoning areas unless a burning ban has been issued by the Township Ordinance Officer. A burning ban will be issued at the request of the Unity Township Fire Bureau or at the discretion of the Ordinance Officer if dry weather conditions dictate a need for a burning ban.

The following is a summary of the ordinance. A full copy of the actual burning ordinance and associated penalties for violations of the ordinance is available at the township ordinance office.

- A. All outdoor burning or fires shall be limited to the burning of brush, twigs and yard waste from dawn until dusk on Tuesday and Saturday, excluding any holiday, as tolerated. All fires must be completely extinguished by dusk.
- B. No person shall kindle or maintain any bonfire, rubbish fire or any other outdoor fire or authorize any such fire to be kindled or maintained on any public or private property other than as set forth in this chapter.
- C. No person or persons shall burn or cause to be burned any garbage, newspaper or paper products, rubber, tires, paint, animal waste, plastics, diapers, toxic materials or other matter consisting of solid waste.
- D. No burning is permitted on any Holiday.
- E. No burning is to be conducted within 50' (fifty feet) of any structure or within 25' (twenty five feet) of any property line.
- F. Burning shall be limited to yard waste only. (e.g., brush, branches, tree limbs etc.) The use of "burn barrels" for burning garbage and trash is strictly prohibited.
- G. In lieu of burning, all debris from land clearing projects in Unity Township shall be removed and/or chipped.
- H. When maintaining an outdoor fire, please be considerate to the adjoining property owners. The smoke from your fire may offend your neighbors.
- I. Burning of any kind is specifically prohibited in any land development areas of Unity Township. That is, those areas which are being cleared and prepared for current or future development projects.
- J. All fires must be attended and have an adequate water source or adequate extinguishment agent immediately available at the site to extinguish the fire completely in the event of an emergency. (e.g., windy conditions arise, fire spreads beyond controlled area, etc.)
- K. Outdoor fireplaces and grills used solely for food preparation are exempt.
- L. Bonfires for amusement purposes require specific approval from the Ordinance Officer.

Any person, firm or corporation who shall violate or fail to conform to any provision of this chapter shall be guilty of a summary offense and, upon conviction thereof, shall be sentenced to pay a fine of \$100.00 for the first offense; \$300.00 for a second offense and a minimum fine of \$500.00 for a third or subsequent

offense which occurs in any twelve (12) month period. In addition to the foregoing penalty, anyone found guilty under this chapter shall be assessed with the costs of prosecution and reasonable attorneys fees incurred by the Township in the prosecution of the offence. In default of the payment of any fine and/or penalty set forth herein, the violator shall be sentenced to the maximum term of imprisonment permitted for summary offenses.

In the event that a fire company is dispatched to the location of any fire or outdoor burning occurring in violation of this chapter, an additional fine and/or penalty of \$150.00 for each fire company dispatched shall be added to the amount of the fine set forth above.

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