



Chelsea Area Fire Authority

200 W. Middle Street

Chelsea, MI 48118

O (734) 475-8755

F (734) 475-1967

<https://www.chelseafire.org>

Fire Chief – Robert A. Arbini

Proudly serving the City of Chelsea and Lima, Lyndon, and Sylvan Townships

Chelsea Area Fire Authority Open Burning and Recreational Fire Ordinance

Definitions

Open Burn – burning of unwanted material such as paper, trees, brush, leaves, grass and other debris where smoke and other emissions are released directly into the air. Any products listed above shall be untreated with any chemicals or additives (i.e., treated lumber).

Recreational/Cooking Fire – burning of natural materials where fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, barbecue grill/smoker and with a total fuel area of 3 feet or less in diameter and 3 feet or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking or similar purposes.

Section 1: This ordinance shall be known as the Open Burning and Recreational Fire Ordinance for all communities covered by Chelsea Area Fire Authority.

Section 2: Purpose

2.1 This ordinance is intended to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens that reside within Lima, Lyndon, Sylvan Townships and the City of Chelsea.

Section 3: Applicability

3.1 This ordinance applies to all open burning and recreational fires within Lima, Lyndon, and Sylvan Townships. The City of Chelsea does not allow open burning.

3.2 Open burning will be allowed from dawn to dusk. Any remnants from the open burn fire will be extinguished by dusk. Cooking/Recreational fire will be allowed from dusk and extinguished no later than 1am of the following day in which the permit was called in.

3.3 CAFA does not do prescribed burns of fields or wild lands. There are private companies that will do this for a fee. You can find information at www.firecouncil.org.



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3.4 There will be no burning on days where there are winds over 15 miles per hour.

Please see the following link to see the weather specifications for the current weather. If the wind shows 15 mph or higher, open burns are not allowed. A brisk wind can quickly spread fire onto other property and/or ignite structures. <https://weather.com/weather/today/l/Chelsea+MI?canonicalCityId=f657e42436bfc2d845b92b9cd7b7e77034392c85832a14d76970a1a014d7e6d6>

3.5 Please visit the following website link for the DNR recommendations. If there is a ban in place for Washtenaw County invoked by the DNR, Chelsea Area Fire Authority will follow their recommendation.

https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79136_79237_80917_81046---.00.html?utm_campaign=burn%20permits%20suspended%20covid19&utm_medium=pr&utm_source=govdelivery

Section 4: Permit Required

4.1 A permit shall be required for open burning (townships only) and cooking/recreational fires (city and townships) and shall be obtained by contacting the fire department/authority that services the area. That number is 734-475-1339. The caller will follow the prompts. The message left by the owner/property owner will be converted into an email for record purposes and serves as your burn permit. No fee or written application shall be required for an Open Burning permit. There is no need to call in for a permit if utilizing a stove, grill, or smoker device, etc.

Section 5: Open Burning of Clean Wood, Natural Materials, Dried Vegetation and Grass Clippings (excluding City of Chelsea).

5.1 Open Burning shall consist of clean wood, natural materials, and dried vegetation including leaves and grass clippings. Clean wood means natural wood which has not been painted, varnished, or coated with a similar material; has not been pressure treated with preservatives; does not contain resins or glues as in plywood or other composite wood products. Fires shall not contain rubbish, plastic, leather or petroleum-based material, nor shall they contain flammable or combustible liquids or any other hazardous materials or substances.

5.2 Open burning of clean wood, natural materials, dried vegetation and grass clippings is allowed only in accordance with all of the following provisions:



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- 5.2.1 All open burns shall be extinguished by dusk and attended to at all times by a responsible adult.
- 5.2.2 All open burning shall occur at least 50 feet or more from any structure and at least 50 feet or more from all property lines and must be a reasonable distance from any building so as to not cause a nuisance from the smoke or an odor to the neighboring properties.
- 5.2.3 Open burning shall be conducted from dawn to dusk.
- 5.2.4 There must be a means at hand, at all times, for controlling the fire (i.e., water hose, shovel, or other tools necessary to control it).

Section 6: Responsibilities of The Fire Chief

- 6.1 The Fire Chief or other designated fire official shall determine the duration of any open burning.
- 6.2 The Fire Chief or other designated fire official may prohibit any or all open burning, which is or could be offensive or objectionable, due to smoke or odor emissions when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fire hazardous or objectionable.
- 6.3 The Fire Chief or other designated fire official may order the extinguishment of any permitted open burning which creates or adds an existing hazardous or objectionable condition. The permit holder shall immediately cease open burning and extinguish the fire when directed by the Fire Chief or other designated fire official.

Section 7: Liability

- 7.1 At the expense of the property owner, the fire department shall extinguish any unattended or unpermitted fires.
- 7.2 At the expense of the property owner, the fire department shall extinguish any objectionable or offensive fires if open burning is not immediately extinguished per Section 6 requirements.