12.02.056 Open Burn Prohibited

For the purpose of this chapter, open burning means the burning of any material wherein air contaminants resulting from combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from any enclosed chamber. A chamber shall be regarded as enclosed when, during the time combustion takes place, only such apertures, ducts stacks, flues, or chimneys as are necessary to provide combustion air and to permit the escape of exhaust gases are open.

A. It is unlawful for any person to open burn any refuse or to permit open burning of any refuse within the city of Council Bluffs, Iowa. Except as hereinafter provided, this section shall apply to all refuse, including but not limited to waste paper, boxes, market wastes, garden wastes, trees, tree limbs, construction lumber (treated and untreated), automobiles and parts thereof, and any and all materials other than material used as fuel in a furnace or boiler.

B. This section shall not apply to outdoor fireplaces or barbeque grills used solely for the noncommercial preparation of food. Such outdoor fireplaces or grills may be used at other than daylight hours, but shall not be used for burning of refuse or combustible waste.

Fire containment devices, such as fire pits and chimneys may be used but are subject to the provisions hereinafter set forth:

1. No outdoor burning is permitted if the wind speed exceeds ten (10) mph;
2. The fire must be constantly attended and supervised by a responsible adult until the fire has been completely extinguished;
3. Fire containment devices shall not be permitted within fifteen (15) feet of any combustible or structure, or within ten (10) feet of a lot line unless mutually agreed upon by the neighboring property owner;
4. Fire pits or other fire containment devices shall not exceed three feet in diameter;
5. Flames shall be kept below two feet in height above the pit or other fire containment device;
6. A portable fire extinguisher or other approved extinguishing equipment, such as a garden hose, must be readily available;
7. Burning that is offensive or objectionable to a reasonable person because of smoke or odor emissions, or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances making such fires hazardous, shall be prohibited.
8. The fire chief or fire chief's designee has the authority to enforce the regulations contained within CBMC 12.02.056.

C. The Fire Chief or Fire Chief's designee may permit an open fire for the following purposes and subject to the provisions hereinafter set forth:

1. City crews operating under the authority of the department of public works;
2. The instruction of public employees in methods of fighting fires;
3. On private property used for industrial purposes for the instruction of employees in the methods of fighting fires;
4. For public gatherings under the legitimate sponsorship of civic, fraternal, religious, educational or similar organizations;
5. Bonfires;
   a. Permit application and applicable fee is required;
   b. Fire ring free of grass and weeds is required;
   c. Water source must be available at the proposed site;
   d. Fire containment devices shall not be permitted within fifty (50) feet of any combustible or structure, or within ten (10) feet of a lot line unless mutually agreed upon by the neighboring property owner;

D. Authorization to permit an open fire will not be granted by the Fire Chief or the Fire Chief's designee when such conditions arise that the fire chief deems such fires to be a safety hazard.

E. Exceptions.

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1. This section shall not apply to flare stacks used for the open burning or flaring of waste gases, provided such open burning or flaring is conducted in compliance with Iowa State Code.
2. This section shall not apply to prescription burns of native grasses when the following conditions are met.
    a. Submittal of a Council Bluffs prescription burn application and associated fee to the fire department.
    b. Develop and submit a site fire management plan with Fire department.
        (1) Plan shall contain: Site background information, fire management justification, fire regime proposal, smoke management plan, neighbor and community relationships and associated aerial maps.
    c. Develop and submit a burn prescription.
        (1) Prescription shall: Identify proper location and owner, plans for unit preparation, ignition and holding operations, identify the unit and all hazards, identify the objectives of the burn, outline contingency plans, describe the weather conditions required, and present plans to notify proper authorities.
    d. All pertinent information must be reviewed and approved by the fire department prior to any prescription burn.
    e. Credentialed burnboss shall be utilized for site fire management plan, burn prescription as well as the actual burn.

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(Ord. No. 6369, § 1, 10-22-2018)