

Definitions

- **"Brush"** means tree trunks, logs, limbs, branches and twigs. [2021 IFC 104.1]
- **"Landscape waste"** means flowers, grass and grass clippings, leaves, pine needles, roots, shrubbery clippings, weeds and any other significant accumulation of small landscape waste materials. [2021 IFC 104.1]
- **"Open burning"** The burning of materials wherein products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber. Open burning does not include road flares, smudge pots and similar devices associated with safety or occupational uses typically considered open flames, *recreational fires* or use of portable outdoor fireplaces. For the purpose of this definition, a chamber shall be regarded as enclosed when, during the time combustion occurs, only apertures, ducts, stacks, flues or chimneys necessary to provide combustion air and permit the escape of exhaust gas are open. [2021 IFC Ch. 2]
- **"Processed wood"** means natural wood to which is added glue and other adhesives, paint, polyurethane, stain, varnish or other such materials or which is treated with chemicals or other substances to change the character of the wood. Processed wood includes, but is not limited to furniture, particle board, plywood, pressure treated lumber and similar wood materials. [2021 IFC 104.1]
- **"Combustible"** combustibles and structures include, but are not limited to, homes, garages, sheds, playhouses, wood decks, wood fences, trees, bushes, and other items. [2021 IFC 104.1]
- **"Recreational fire"** An outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, portable outdoor fireplace, barbeque grill or barbeque pit and has a total fuel area of 3 feet (914 mm) or less in diameter and 2 feet (610 mm) or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes. [2021 IFC Ch. 2]
- **"Self-contained outdoor burning device"** means a freestanding or stationary apparatus that contains a burn chamber that prevents the products and emissions from combustion from immediately entering the ambient air by use of a chimney, flue, baffle, screen, grill, hood or other similar device. [2021 IFC 104.1]

Violations

Any person adjudicated of a violating the Burning Regulation Code shall receive a fine of not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) nor more than seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00) for any one offense.

Who Do I Contact for More Information??

City of Geneva Fire Department
gfd@geneva.il.us or (630) 232-2530



Information on Open Burning Regulations for the City of Geneva, Illinois





Did you know...

The open burning of any paper, garbage, refuse, waste, brush, leaves, clippings, processed wood, landscape waste or other combustible or offensive materials is **prohibited?** [2021 IFC 104.1]



You can have a recreational fire on your property by following these simple steps:

1. Use a device designed for recreational burning

- A commercial prefabricated portable outdoor fireplace that is constructed of steel, concrete, clay or other noncombustible material. All parts, including, but not limited to, screen, lid, and grate must be used according to the manufacturer's directions and shall not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material. [2021 IFC 307.4.3]
- A permanent structure such as a fire pit that is dug into the ground in a manner that will prevent the burning materials from falling out of the pit. The above-grade portion of the pit must be constructed of stone, masonry, metal, or other similar noncombustible material and extend at least 6 inches above the coals or ash. The below grade portion of the pit shall have a gravel, stone, or dirt base. The burning area shall have a total fuel are of less than 36 inches diameter and 24 inches or less in height. [2021 IFC 307.4]
- A masonry or prefabricated fire place that is designed and built to the International Residential Code and shall be approved and inspected by the City of Geneva Building Division. [2021 IRC Chapter 10]



2. Follow These Rules

Where can you have a recreational fire?

Portable outdoor fireplaces must be located on a hard, noncombustible and level surface when in use, this includes but is not limited to, concrete, paver bricks, dirt or asphalt and must be at least 10 feet from the nearest property line. This means you cannot use a portable fireplace on your wooden or composite deck. [2021 IFC 307.4]

How far do you need to locate your fire pit from nearby structures or combustible material?

Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet (7620 mm) of a structure or combustible material and must be at least 10 feet (3048 mm) from the nearest property line. Conditions that could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet (7620 mm) of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition. [City of Geneva Code Amended 2021 IFC 307.4.2]

What kind of fuel can you use?

You can use untreated, unpainted, clean, seasoned, dry wood and manufactured fire logs. Propane and other similar gases may also be burned as long as the device is rated for that type of fuel. In all instances the **burning of processed wood or landscape waste is strictly prohibited.** [2021 IFC 104.1]

Attendance During recreational fire:

All recreational fires shall constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. [2021 IFC 307.5]

Put The Fire Out:

You must have the ability to extinguish the fire using dirt, sand, water, garden hose, or fire extinguisher during any recreational fire. It must be extinguished in such a manner that all air to the fire is cut off or the burning material is wetted down with water until it is cool to the touch. [2021 IFC 307.5]

What About Odors and Fumes?

Be a good neighbor and be sensitive to the effects your recreational fire may have on your neighbors. If the police or fire department receive a complaint about smoke or odors from your fire, they may determine it is a nuisance because the “emission of smoke and gases onto a neighboring property contributes to a hazardous condition to health or safety” and will order the fire extinguished. If you refuse to extinguish the fire or reignite the fire after the public safety officers have left it will be extinguished for you and you may be fined up to \$750. [2021 IFC 307.3 & City of Geneva Code title 10, chapter 2]

You Are Responsible:

You must maintain the fire in such a manner as to minimize the generation of smoke. Smoke that is a result of a smoldering or dying fire is prohibited and will be considered to be a public nuisance punishable by a fine. [2021 IFC 307.4.2]

Are There Weather Restrictions?

YES, there are restrictions. Open burning is prohibited when winds exceed 10 miles per hour, on cloudy days, during announced inversion conditions or ozone alerts, or other local circumstances that make such fires hazardous. [2021 IFC 307.1.1]