



Northville Township Fire Department

45745 W. Six Mile Rd.

Northville, MI 48168

Phone: (248) 348-5807 Fax: (248) 348-5840

Email: thughes@twp.northville.mi.us

northvillemich.com

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why are there so many regulations?

A: To reduce the risk of unwanted fires and fire spread resulting in injury, death and property damage. When used in accordance with this standard or the manufacturer's listings, the risk of an unwanted fire is low. In recent years the popularity of outdoor fires has including the type and style of device.

Q: What is a one-and-two family home/dwelling?

A: For the purposes of outdoor fires, one-and-two family dwellings are defined as dwelling units (homes/condos) that consist of one-and-two families only (single family homes and duplexes). Reductions in the minimum required clearances are permitted in one-and-two family homes because the level of familiarity and control exercised by the occupant is recognized as offsetting the hazards of these devices.

Q: What is a multi-family home/dwelling?

A: A multi-family home is any home/structure that consists of more than two dwelling units (homes/condos). Due to the hazards associated with the increased building size, the increased number of occupants, and possible fire travel, any structure that exceeds two families is considered to be a multi-family dwelling for the purposes of outdoor fires. This includes most apartments, condominiums, townhomes, etc.

Q: Can I have an outdoor fire at my apartment, condominium or townhouse?

A: Outdoor fires may be permitted at your apartment or condominium when in compliance with all of the general requirements include the condition that outdoor fires must be conducted on your property only. Consult with the property manager, rental agency, rental/lease agreements prior to conducting any open burning at any apartment, condominium or townhouse.

Q: Can I have an outdoor fire at my church, school or other public location?

A: Outdoor fires on public property may be permitted upon completion of a permit application and field inspection conducted by the fire department. Permit applications must be received at Fire Department Headquarters a minimum of 72 hours in advance of any outdoor fire. Inspections must be completed between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:00 pm, Monday-Friday. Permit applications must be completed, in person by an authorized representative of the property and may require a letter from the property owner.

Q: Where do all of these rules come from?

A: The Charter Township of Northville Ordinance 79-2 adopts the 2009 International Fire Code (IFC) as the Fire Prevention code in the Township. These regulations are taken from that code and clarified in this document to address common questions and provide clear guidance to the community. In areas not specifically identified in the IFC, other reference standards and generalized safety recommendations provided by the fire department were used.

Q: What are manufacturer's instructions?

A: Manufacturer's instructions are instructions provided by the manufacturer to outline the proper use of a particular device. Manufacturer's instructions are provided with commercially available devices including fire rings, burn pits, burn boxes, chimeneas, outdoor fireplaces, gas burners, fire tables, etc. and are designed with specific requirements. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for the proper operation, location, clearances and hazards associated with your device. If you cannot find or produce the manufacturer's instructions the most restrictive clearance requirements must be met.