

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
BURNING RESTRICTIONS
SECTION II 10.0 – 10.1**

Date: March 13, 2011

Approved by R. Dale Horne – Fire Chief

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10.0 Purpose:

- a. The hazards associated with open burning and recreational fires require the Anderson Fire Department to develop an enforcement policy that enables the hazards to be properly managed.
- b. Depending on the circumstances, any kind of open burning may be illegal and is always discouraged.

10.1 Statewide Laws and Regulations:

- a. Three State Agencies contribute to our Statewide Laws and Regulations:
 - i. S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)
 - ii. Office of the State Fire Marshal
 - iii. S.C. Forestry Commission
- b. It is against the law to burn household garbage and trash in South Carolina. Items that are **illegal to burn** include, but are not limited to:
 - i. paper and cardboard
 - ii. motor and waste heating oil
 - iii. roofing materials (like shingles and tar)
 - iv. tires and other rubber products
 - v. paint
 - vi. electrical wire
 - vii. plastic
 - viii. farm and household chemicals
 - ix. insulation and duct work

Substantial fines can be assessed even for first-time violations for burning any of these items.

- c. Homeowners may **legally** burn yard trimmings, if allowed by “**local ordinances**”. Fires used solely for human warmth (using only **clean wood products**), ceremonial occasions, and cooking food are also allowed under state regulation, including:
 - i. fireplaces
 - ii. bonfires
 - iii. campfires
 - iv. outdoor barbecues

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10.2 Local Ordinances:

- a. The City of Anderson places the following restrictions on open burning
- i. *Sec. 70-9. Burning leaves.*

It shall be unlawful for any person to burn leaves or other substances upon any street, sidewalk, public way or any other place in the city.

(Code 1970, § 30-18)

Cross references: *Fire prevention and protection, ch. 46.*

10.3 Anderson Fire Department Burning Restrictions:

- a. This only leaves four types of open fires that could be legally considered within the City of Anderson

i. Fireplaces

- 1) Outdoor fireplaces will be permitted provided they have a cover and chimney and are not within 25' of a structure
- 2) No open-flames

ii. Bonfires

- 1) Open flame bonfires will not be permitted
- 2) Commercially manufactured fire pits will be permitted provided they have a cover and are not within 25' of any structure
- 3) No open flames
- 4) Ceremonial pits may be approved by the Chief, providing they have a cover and are not within 25' of any structure.

iii. Campfires

- 1) Open flame campfires will not be permitted
- 2) An exception may be if this is reclassified as a ceremonial pit. This will be handled on an individual basis by the Chief.

iv. Outdoor barbecues

- 1) Electric, propane and charcoal grills will be permitted
- 2) All International Fire Codes regarding these, will be strongly enforced
- 3) Barbecue pits may be approved by the Chief, providing they are only for cooking and are not within 25' of any structure.

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10.4 Supervision:

- a. Any authorized burning shall be constantly attended by a designated person(s) approved by the Fire Department.
- b. The fire shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished.
- c. A minimum of one fire extinguisher rated at least 4-A or other approved on-site fire-extinguishing equipment shall be available for immediate utilization.
- d. Only clean wood products can be burned.
- e. If the fire department receives a legitimate complaint, as determined by on scene Incident Commander, **we will** extinguish the fire.

