



Open Burning

Due to the density of population and buildings in our area, the West County EMS & Fire Protection District no longer issues permits for bonfires or open burning.

Recreational bonfires on private property are allowed without a permit as long as the following conditions remain valid:

1. The property owner is aware and has given permission.
2. The fire shall be attended at all times.
3. A water source (i.e. hose) is present sufficient to extinguish the fire.
4. There is no perceptible wind speed or breeze
5. The area within 50 feet of the recreational fire is free of fallen leaves and natural cover exceeding 6 inches in height
6. There are no structures within 25 feet of the fire.
7. Burning material must consist of natural wood or light combustibles and may not contain treated materials, oil, plastics, tires or other hydrocarbons.

Open burning is regulated by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, St. Louis County and any municipal ordinance. There are new relaxed open burning rules by Missouri DNR effective March 2019.

While the District does not actively seek out open burning, In accordance with Section 307.3 of the *2024 International Fire Code* as adopted by the West County EMS & Fire Protection District, crews will request the occupant to extinguish any residential open burning that is endangering structures or property or is generating a nuisance to neighbors or vehicular traffic. Please be aware that the District may be obligated to extinguish if the occupant declines our request.

Exceptions:

1. Land management operations conducted on behalf of and under the direct supervision by personnel of The Missouri Department of Conservation, St. Louis County or any municipal government
2. Land clearing operations conducted by a landowner or their contractor as part of an approved site development plan permitted by West County EMS & Fire Protection District