



Fire Department • 307 S. Randolph St • Champaign IL 61820 • (217) 403-7200 • fax (217) 403-7213 • www.ci.champaign.il.us

January 23, 2015

Dear Citizens of the City of Champaign:

On September 18, 1991, the City Council passed an amendment to the City Code banning the practice of burning leaves under any circumstances. In doing so, the Council has essentially eliminated all open burning in the City of Champaign. Your cooperation and compliance with the law is very much appreciated.

The proper procedures for disposing of fallen leaves and other types of yard waste can be identified by contacting the Champaign Public Works Department at 403-4770. Special leaf pick-up and assistance programs for elderly or infirm residents have been authorized by the Council to assist the citizens of the City.

Although recreational fires are permitted by the Code, there are very specific guidelines for these recreational fires. These guidelines do not allow the burning of fallen leaves or brush as recreational fire fuels. The requirements for recreational fires are available upon request from the Champaign Fire Department.

Again, your cooperation in obeying the law and protecting the environment is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Koller". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

John Koller
Fire Marshal

JK:sw

Champaign City Code Burning Ordinance

Sec. 15-20. Burning prohibited; exceptions.

(a) It shall be unlawful to burn any garbage, or other organic refuse, outside of any building at any time in the City.

(b) It shall be unlawful to burn papers, excelsior, or other material which may be blown about by the wind anywhere in the City unless the same is burned in a stove, fireplace, or furnace or in an incinerator sufficiently fine to prevent the escape of ignited particles.

(c) It shall be unlawful to burn grass or brush at any time in the City.

(d) It shall be unlawful for any person to burn leaves at any time in the City.

(e) Recreational campfires are permitted on property only under the following conditions:

(1) The fire shall be contained in a metal container not exceeding twenty (20) square feet in plane surface area and not elevated more than ten (10) inches above the grade level or on cleared earth in a pit enclosed on the sides by masonry or rock materials and not exceeding twenty (20) square feet in area.

(2) All trees, fences, decks and other structures shall be at least ten (10) feet from the fire enclosure or pit.

(3) Any fuel used shall be confined to logs or branches that are untreated or commercially available charcoal briquettes. No other fuels are permissible except a starter fuel designed for that purpose.

(4) A responsible adult of at least eighteen (18) years of age shall be in attendance at all times that the fire is burning. When adult supervision ceases, the fire shall be extinguished with water and the coals spread out in the enclosure.

(5) Campfires shall be extinguished if, in the opinion of a responding fire department employee, there is danger that smoke or fire will inflict injury upon someone or will cause damage to property.

(6) The owner of the property upon which the fire is burning shall have consented to such fire.

(f) Outdoor cooking fires: Charcoal or small wood fires for cooking purposes are permitted in containers designed for cooking over such fires. These containers shall be placed so that they do not cause fire or smoke damage to property or injury to any person.

(g) Special recreational fires: With the written permission of the Fire Chief and in accordance with the conditions prescribed by the Fire Chief, special recreational fires shall be permitted at special events such as high school or college pep rallies. The Fire Chief shall have sole discretion to issue a letter of permission for such fires based upon the potential for danger to persons or property. He or she may prescribe such mandatory conditions as are necessary or desirable to insure the safety of persons and property.

(h) Prescribed burning for alternative landscapes: With the written permission of the Fire Chief and in accordance with section 35-35 of the Champaign Municipal Code, prescribed burning for alternative landscapes shall be permitted. The Fire Chief shall have sole discretion to issue a letter of permission for such fires based upon the potential for danger to persons or property. He or she may prescribe such mandatory conditions as are necessary or desirable to insure the safety of persons and property.

(i) Enforcement: It shall be the responsibility of the Fire Chief, his or her designee, or the Police Chief or his or her designee to enforce this section of the Code.

(Code 1975, § 17-4; C.B. No. 79-238, § 3, 9-18-79; C.B. No. 81-47, § 1, 4-8-81; C.B. No. 90-319, § 1, 12-18-90; C.B. No. 91-231, § 1, 9-17-91; C.B. No. 94-120, § 2, 5-17-94)

Cross references: Bonfires, § 13-7; burning leaves and rubbish in streets, § 13-8.

Secs. 15-21, 15-22. Reserved.

Editor's note: Section 1 of C.B. No. 92-15, adopted Jan. 7, 1992, repealed former §§ 15-21, 15-22, which pertained to burning and City Disposal Grounds and derived from Code 1975, §§ 17-10 and 17-19.

Secs. 15-23--15-50. Reserved.