



# Borough of Hawthorne

## Fire Prevention Bureau

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### “Residential Recreational Fires” – NJ Fire Code

There have recently been many inquiries regarding residential recreational fires. These fires include fire pits and chimineas. This information sheet will cite the current 2018 International Fire Code New Jersey Edition and will serve as guidance to the residents of the Borough of Hawthorne.

#### Section 307.2

**Allowable burning.** Open burning shall be allowed without prior notification to the Fire Official for recreational fire, highway safety flares, smudge pots and similar occupational needs.

**Interpretation:** No notification needed for recreational fires.

#### Section 307.2.1.2

**Agricultural burning permitted.** The burning of herbaceous or infested plant life, the burning of orchard prunings and cuttings, prescribed burnings and the clearing of agricultural land by burning are **Prohibited** by this chapter, unless in accordance with a permit issued under the provisions of N.J.A.C. 7:27-2, administered by the State Forest Fire Services in the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

**Interpretation:** Residents **CAN NOT** burn plants, trees, cuttings/clippings etc... without a Permit.

#### Section 307.2.2

**Waste disposal.** Open burning shall not be utilized for waste disposal purposes, shall be of the minimum size for the intended purpose, and the fuel shall be chosen to minimize the generation and emission of air contaminants.

**Interpretation:** Residents can not burn garbage or anything that will produce offensive fumes or a vast amount of smoke.

Section 307.3

**Extinguishment Authority.** Where open burning creates or adds to a hazardous situation, or a required permit for open burning has not been obtained, the Fire Code Official is authorized to order the extinguishment of the open burning operation.

**Interpretation:** A Fire Official is authorized to notify the Fire Department and have them extinguish any and all open burning that is creating a hazard or fires that are producing offensive fumes.

Section 307.4

**Location.** The location for open burning shall be not less than 50 feet from any structure, and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 50 feet of any structure.

**Exceptions:**

1. Fires in approved containers that are not less than 15 feet from a structure.
2. The minimum required distance from a structure shall be 25 feet where a pile size is 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height.

**Interpretation:** The vast majority of residence that burn, utilize approved containers (Chimeneas, Brick fire pits, etc..). Those containers have to be at least 15 feet from house or any other structure.

If a resident has any questions and/or concerns regarding the above, please feel free to contact me at (973) 427-7544.