



Examples of legal devices used for burning in the City of Urbandale.



Propane and natural gas fire pit or bowl devices are allowed as long as all manufacturers' instructions and recommendations are followed.



Propane and natural gas grills are allowed as long as all manufacturers' instructions and recommendations are followed. Charcoal or any cooking devices that produce ash or embers are not allowed to be used or stored within 20 feet of multi-story buildings like apartments and condominiums.

Learn More About Safety:

www.urbandale.org - UFD website

www.nfpa.org - National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

www.homefiresprinkler.org - Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition

www.usfa.dhs.gov - United States Fire Administration (USFA)

www.bereadyiowa.org . IA Homeland Security and Emergency Management

www.dps.state.ia.us/fm/ - Iowa State Fire Marshal



No Open Burning in the City of Urbandale

Information regarding the rules and regulations of open burning, grill usage, and why open burning is not allowed in the City of Urbandale.



3927 121st St.

Urbandale, IA 50323

Phone: 515.278.3970

Email: fire@urbandale.org

www.facebook.com/urbandalefiredepartment



City of Urbandale Open Burning Policy:

The Urbandale Fire Department would like to remind Urbandale residents that under an ordinance enacted by the Polk County Board of Health and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, there is no open burning allowed within the City of Urbandale.

This includes the Dallas County portion of Urbandale.

Under this ordinance the use of wood burning patio fireplaces, chimineas, fire pits, fire bowls, bon fires, leaf burning, and any other open wood or debris burning are deemed illegal.



What Happens When You Burn:

Plastic milk jugs: These contain chlorine. When burned, toxic dioxins are emitted.

Leaves and branches: Particulate matter (PM) is released, which interferes with respiratory systems.

Plastic garbage bags: These contain polyethylene, which releases dioxins when burned.

Asphalt shingles: Burning these will release PAHs (a carcinogen), hydrogen sulfide (a toxic gas) and possibly asbestos and silica (causes of lung disease).

Upholstered couch: Contains formaldehyde and dioxins.

Plastic PVC pipe: A huge amount of dioxins will be released.

Magazines/catalogues: Burning paper bleached with chlorine, dyes and inks from the printing process will create dioxins.



Rules for the Preparation of Food:

Fires for the preparation of food **are allowed** and this ordinance does not apply to charcoal or gas BBQ grills.

However, charcoal grills **are not allowed** to be used or stored within 20 feet of apartment and condominium buildings.

Wood burning units for the preparation of food **must have a grate for food preparation and provisions for holding the fire off of the ground.**

Natural gas or propane fire pits/bowls that are NOT used to burn any other combustible materials **are allowed.**



Open Flame Cooking Devices.

No barbecue grills or other devices which produce ashes or embers shall be operated or stored within twenty (20) feet of multi-story buildings such as Apartment buildings and Condominiums.

A maximum of one 20-pound propane cylinder attached to the cooking device shall be allowed. Exception: One- and two-family dwellings and townhomes. Cooking devices and/or the propane cylinders shall not be stored inside the living unit of Apartment Buildings and/or Condominiums.



Department of Natural Resources

According to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, burning waste and trash releases toxic chemicals into the air.

At one time, open burning was considered an easy and cheap way to dispose of waste, however, now it can threaten the health and environment considerably.

This is because the products used today by consumers have several chemicals in their make-up that were not being used 50-60 years ago.

If you have any further questions about open burning, please contact the Urbandale Fire Department at 278-3970.

