Open Burning in Manchester

**Authorized open burning** MUST:

1. be maintained appropriately in an approved container
2. be on prepared ground,
   * cleared of combustibles within 10 feet of fire
   * no overhanging branches or structures
   * 25 feet from all property lines
3. use only an authorized fuel source: charcoal, commercial fire log, seasoned fire-wood
   * NO: processed wood, wood scraps, brush, leaves, trash and/or debris.
4. only be used for residential cooking, ambiance, warming or ceremonial and/or religious purposes

To be “maintained appropriately”:

- the fire and smoke generated from an authorized open burn must not create a nuisance to other properties or people.
- the fire is constantly attended by a mature, competent person
- extinguishing capability is readily available if extinguishment becomes necessary

“**Approved Containers**” are at least 10 feet from any structure and 25 feet from all property lines, and not on combustible surfaces. Approved containers include:

- fixed outdoor fireplaces
- portable commercial fireplaces
- chimeneas

Propane and charcoal grills are also approved containers and cannot be placed within 3 feet of any combustible surface/structure.

“**Unauthorized open burning**” (NOT ALLOWED):

1. burning garbage, leaves, twigs, small branches, processed wood, paper, etc.,
2. fires that are dangerous or reckless in size
3. fires that are a nuisance to the property of another,
4. fires that are kindled during a high or extreme forest fire alert period

“Nuisance” to the property of another means a fire whose VISIBLE smoke drifts off property lines with a complaint from another that such smoke is creating a nuisance in doing so. The Fire Department does not have the authority to regulate odors. A simple odor complaint does not constitute a “nuisance”.