

Open Burning Regulation

FACT SHEET



Open burning may only be conducted in accordance with ACHD Article XXI §2105.50 "Open Burning." Municipal ordinances may only be equal to or more stringent than ACHD regulations.



No person shall conduct, or allow to be conducted, the open burning of any material, except where the Department has issued an open burning permit, or where the open burning is conducted in accordance to Article XXI §2105.50 and is done in a manner which contributes a negligible amount of air contaminants.



No material other than clean wood, propane or natural gas may be open burned EXCEPT for:

- Commercially available fire logs, paraffin logs or wood pellets
- Paper or commercial smokeless fire starters in order to start a fire
- Charcoal for the preparation of food only



Fires may be no larger than 3' wide by 3' long by 2' high.



GovQA is the ACHD complaint portal. All air pollution related complaints - not just about wood smoke - can be reported. Complaints will be investigated by ACHD staff, and violations can be issued when necessary.

Access GovQA by scanning the QR code or visit callcenter.alleghenycounty.us.



Air Quality Program

836 Fulton Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15233
PHONE: 412-578-8103

alleghenycounty.us/airquality



FOR A FULL COPY OF ACHD REGULATIONS:
<https://www.alleghenycounty.us/files/assets/county/v/1/government/health/documents/air-quality/article-21-air-pollution-control.pdf>



Fires must be at least 15 feet from the nearest neighbor's dwelling or inhabited area, including:

- Property line
- Sidewalk
- Roadway
- Public access area



Wood burning activities are prohibited on Air Quality Action days, with the exception of burning for the commercial preparation of food, or in the municipalities identified in Subsection 2106.06.d when a Mon Valley Air Pollution Watch or Warning has been issued under Section 2106.06.

Subscribe to receive email, text or smart phone app notifications of burn ban days at:
<https://member.everbridge.net/453003085611110/new>



Burning may be prohibited/reduced if considered a nuisance, based on the following criteria:

- The severity of the amount of air pollutants
- The duration or frequency of open burning
- The topography of the surroundings
- The meteorological conditions



Open burning permits are available for ceremonies, fostering of agriculture, abatement of a public health hazard and firefighting instruction; however, all permitted open burning is prohibited on Air Quality Action Days, or in the municipalities identified in Subsection 2106.06.d when a Mon Valley Air Pollution Watch or Warning has been issued under Section 2106.06.

Contact ACHD at 412 578-8103 for more information