



**NOBLESVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**

**INSPECTION DIVISION**

MATT MITCHELL – DIVISION CHIEF

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## **OPEN BURNING IN THE CITY OF NOBLESVILLE**

The intent of this document is to inform homeowners about open burning within the City of Noblesville. This content applies only to open burning within the incorporated areas (city limits) of Noblesville and only address the City of Noblesville Open Burning Ordinance (50-10-09) requirements. **Please contact your homeowners association concerning any additional restrictions or requirements about recreational burning.**

The Open Burning Ordinance does allow an exemption for fires used for recreational or cooking purposes **(DISPOSAL BURNING IS NOT ALLOWED)**. However, this document requires *prior* approval from the fire department for all exempted fires. In order to comply with the requirement of this legislation, the City of Noblesville Fire Department has instituted a *no-cost* permitting process for open burning. This process allows us to explain the rules to the property owners, as well as comply with the Ordinance.

There are two types of permits: The **Standard Open Burn Permit** and the **Annual Open Burn Permit**.

1. The Standard Open Burn Permit is designed for residents who burn occasionally (two or three times a year) for recreational or cooking purposes in an open burn pit or fire ring. This group can stop at any City of Noblesville Fire Station, fill out a permit, and burn on the day in which the permit is valid.
2. The Annual Open Burn Permit targets the homeowners who burn more often. The issuance of an Annual Permit requires a *permanent* burn site and an inspection by a member of the Noblesville Fire Prevention Bureau. After this permit is issued, the homeowner is free to burn anytime—**as long as any conditions of the permit and the City Ordinance are followed**. This permit simply needs to be renewed annually.

Construction of the Burn Site:

- **Open Burning Fire pits, rings, etc.,** need to comply with the Ordinance requirement of twenty feet (25') from any combustible material or structure. We would encourage the property owners to recess the pit into the ground or construct the site with non-combustible materials, i.e., brick, stone, concrete, etc.

*\*Outdoor fireplaces or other approved manufactured burning devices should be installed and utilized according to the manufacturers' recommendations. Generally, these types of devices **DO NOT** require an Open Burn Permit. However, the manufacturer's instructions should be available to the fire official upon request.*

The intent of the city ordinance is to **eliminate burning for disposal purposes** and allow homeowners the freedom to enjoy recreational burning. For your convenience, the City of Noblesville can assist you with brush and leaf pick-up. Please contact the Street Department at (317) 776-6348 for more information.

For your review, I have enclosed the section of Ordinance 50-10-09 which details open burning.

Please feel free to contact this office with any questions or to schedule a burn-site inspection. The City of Noblesville Fire Department will gladly assist you with burning safely and responsibly.

Sincerely,

Matt Mitchell, CFM  
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City of Noblesville Fire Department  
Inspection Division  
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Enclosure