



GEORGETOWN TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

Georgetown Charter Township has a burning ordinance in place which is outlined as follows:

A brush permit can be obtained if you live in Agricultural or Rural Residential zoned areas of the Township. This type of permit will allow you to burn large amounts of brush which would not easily be consumed in a recreational fire. You **MAY NOT** burn stumps which would create a nuisance (excessive odor, smoke, etc.) with your fire. The Fire Department has the right to require you to put the fire out for any reason cited by the fire officer investigating the complaint, based on Sec. 34-141..

Recreational fires are allowed without a permit in the above areas, as well as the Low, Low/medium/Medium, Medium/high, and the High Density Residential districts. In all instances of lawful burning, the maximum size of the area which is used for the open fire shall not be larger than three feet in diameter or three by three foot square.

A citation may be issued if these regulations are not followed. If the fire department is dispatched to extinguish your illegal fire, you may be charged for the cost of the call.

The following guidelines will assist you in burning in a safe manner:

- The brush permit must be renewed each calendar year
- Supervise your fire at all times.
- Have extinguishing equipment available.

BRUSH FIRES:

1. You **MUST** notify the fire department at 616-457-2340 prior to burning so we can alert the fire department duty officer. Office hours are 8-5 Monday-Friday. If burning over the weekend, be sure to call during the week prior so that proper notification can be made.
2. **DO NOT** burn within 50' of any structure.
3. Be aware of overhead wires.
4. **DO NOT** burn **ON** the asphalt **OR** leave debris in ditches.

RECREATIONAL FIRES:

- Camp fire must be in a ring or pit (3ft in diameter or 3x3ft square).
- Use clean dry wood to minimize smoke and smoldering.
- Be considerate of your neighbors.
- Be sure fire is completely extinguished before leaving it unattended.
- Fire must be used for recreation and food preparation purposes only.
- In the event that you have a neighbor that has a concern about your burning for any reason, the fire department has the authority to revoke your burning privileges.

Sec 34-141 Restrictions

In all instances of lawful burning, a responsible adult must be present out-of-doors at the burning site and actively supervise the burning. The fire chief or designee shall reserve the right to deny burning at any time upon the recommendation of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, or upon the determination by the township that a violation has occurred, or upon the determination that the permitted use of burning is detrimental to the public health, safety or welfare. It shall be unlawful for any person, persons, or entities throughout the township to burn or to permit any burning of matter of any kind which shall create or cause to emanate there from any dust, dirt, smell or foreign substances, or smoke in an amount and of such nature, or both, as to duly disturb, annoy or harm others, thereby destroying their full, quiet, and peaceful occupancy and enjoyment of their homes and premises accessory thereto.

Sec 34-142 Brush Permit

It shall be unlawful for any person, persons or entities throughout the township to burn brush without having first obtained a brush permit from the fire chief or his designee. Burning for such purposes is permitted only by permit issued by the township fire chief or his designee, for such purposes in an agriculture or rural residential district as listed on the official Georgetown Township Zoning Map. The permit is valid for the calendar year in which it is issued. The brush permit allows the burning of large amounts of brush that would not easily be consumed in a recreational fire. The burning of stumps, garbage, trash, leaves, or any fire that creates a nuisance by excessive odor or smoke is not allowed. Prior to burning any brush fire, the fire department must be notified during regular office hours of the date and time of the fire. Burning is not allowed within 50 feet of any structure, under any overhead wires, on asphalt or in ditches.

Sec 34-143 Recreational Burning And Open Fire Cooking

In all instances of lawful burning, the maximum size of the area which is used for the open fire shall not be larger than three feet in diameter or three by three foot square. All fires shall be contained in a pit or ring, or a commercial container approved for such use and shall be located in a spot that is a safe distance from structures, mobile properties, or other combustibles that may cause damage or harm. It shall be unlawful to burn brush, waste, rubbish, or other such matter. This section shall not apply to outdoor cooking by any person, persons, for their immediate family and invitees at the residence of such person or persons or at a public park, utilizing charcoal or gas heat contained within a commercially constructed metal grill or cooking surface.

Sec 34-144 Garbage

It shall be unlawful for any person, persons, or entities throughout the township to burn or to permit the burning of any garbage, including all animal and vegetable waste, resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking, or consumption of food, whether in an incinerator or not.

Sec 34-145 Waste Material, Paper And Refuse

It shall be unlawful throughout the township to burn waste material, paper and refuse of any kind and nature, whether burned in an incinerator type container or barrel.

Sec 34-146 Leaves

It shall be unlawful for any person, persons or entities throughout the township to burn, or to attempt to burn, or to permit the out-of-doors burning of leaves at any time of year.

Sec 34-147 Payment By Owner If Fire Department Called Out

In the event that the fire department is called out on a burning ordinance violation, all expenses incurred shall be paid by the owner or owners of such lands. The township shall have a lien upon such lands, lots or parcels for such expense, and such lien is to be enforced in the manner prescribed in any charter, by the general laws of the state providing for the enforcement of tax liens, or by ordinance duly passed by the governing body of this township.

Sec 34-148 Burning For Purposes Of Fire Department Training

This article shall not apply to any burning initiated by the fire chief or designee for the purpose of fire department training.

Sec 34-149 Penalty For Violation Of Article

Any person who violates this article shall be responsible for a civil infraction and shall be punished by a fine as set forth in the Schedule of Civil Fines [Appendix C] and court costs. Equitable relief may also be awarded as permitted by Michigan law. Each day that a violation continues shall be deemed a separate offense.