

# Iola Fire Department

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## Burn Regulations for Residents within the City of Iola in Allen County

### Prohibited Fires IFC105.1 General, IFC307.1.1

All open burning or fires are prohibited except as allowed by permit written by the Fire Chief and/or defined in this document.

Burning that is offensive or objectionable because of smoke is prohibited.

#### EXAMPLES OF ALLOWED USES:

Recreational Fires, Bon Fires, BBQ Pits and Commercial Fire Appliances.

### Extinguishment and Attendance IFC307.5

All fires shall be constantly attended by a responsible party until the fire is fully extinguished. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating or other approved on site fire extinguishing equipment such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck shall be available for immediate use.

### Recreational Fires IFC307.4.2

A Fire Department Permit IS NOT Required.

DEFINITION: A Recreational Fire is an outdoor fire burning materials other than yard debris, rubbish and prohibited materials where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, barbecue grill or barbecue pit and has a total fuel area of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.

- Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material.
- Natural untreated wood is allowed for burning. Prohibited materials shall not be used as a fuel. (SEE BELOW)
- Recreational fires are permitted after dark.
- If a county burn ban is in effect no open burning or fires will be permitted.
- Recreational fires shall be attended and supervised at all times until fully extinguished.

- The Fire Chief or his/her representative has the final authority. If any rules are broken, or there are unsafe conditions such as excess smoke or flying embers due to wind conditions the fire department will ask you to extinguish the fire.
- If you have any questions regarding these Regulations, contact the Fire Department.

### Prohibited Materials (ALL TYPES OF BURNING)

- Plastics
- Garbage & Construction Waste
- Wire Insulation
- Rubber (TIRES) etc.
- All petroleum Based Products
- Animal Waste
- Food Service & Industrial Waste
- Yard Vegetation and Debris

### Portable Outdoor Fire Places (Recreational Fires) IFC307.4.3

A Fire Department Permit IS NOT Required.

DEFINITION: A portable, outdoor, solid-fuel-burning fireplace that may be constructed of steel, concrete, clay or other noncombustible material.

EXAMPLE UNITS: Gas fired fireplaces, metal or stone chiminea's and commercial fire pits; may be of open top design, may be equipped with a small hearth, may have a short chimney or similar products.

The use of Portable Outdoor Fire Places may be used when the following precautions are taken.

- All manufactures' suggestions, instructions and safety precautions are taken to ensure the unit operates as intended.
- If equipped, use with a screen to contain sparks and embers.
- Portable Outdoor Fireplaces shall not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material. (Exception: One & two family dwellings).
- Natural untreated wood is allowed burning. Prohibited materials shall not be used as fuel. (SEE ABOVE).
- Fires shall be attended and supervised at all times until fully extinguished.

### Open Flame (Outdoors) IFC308.3

A Fire Department Permit IS NOT Required.

Open flames such as citronella candles, lanterns, kerosene heaters, tiki torches and gas fired heaters shall not be located on or near decorative material or similar combustible materials. Burning devices shall be attended until extinguished.

### Open-Flame Cooking Devices IFC308.3.1

A Fire Department Permit IS NOT Required

DEFINITION: Used for cooking food

Charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies or with-in 10 feet of combustible construction.

Exceptions:

- One- and two family dwellings.
- Where buildings, balconies and decks are protected by an automatic sprinkler system.

### Liquefied-Petroleum-Gas-Fueled Cooking Devices IFC308.3.1.1

A Fire Department Permit IS NOT Required

DEFINITION: Used for cooking food

LP-gas burners having an LP-gas container with a water capacity greater than 2.5 pounds shall not be located on combustible balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction.

Exception:

- One- and two family dwellings.

### Bonfires IFC307.4.1

A Fire Department Permit IS Required

DEFINITION: A Bonfire is an outdoor fire used for ceremonial purposes.

- Bonfires shall be inspected and approved by the Fire Chief.
- A permit from the Fire Chief shall be obtained prior to igniting.
- Bonfires shall not be located within 50 feet of a structure or combustible material unless the fire is contained in a barbecue pit.
- Natural untreated wood is allowed for burning. Prohibited materials shall not be used as a fuel. (SEE ABOVE).

- Bonfires shall be no greater than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height.
- Bonfires shall be attended and supervised at all times until fully extinguished.

### Barbecue Pits IFC307.4.1

A Fire Department Permit IS NOT Required.

DEFINITION: Used for cooking food

- Barbecue Pits outdoors shall be constructed of noncombustible materials or approved in-ground locations.
- Barbecue Pits shall not be located within 50 feet of combustible structures or combustible material.
- Barbecue Pits shall be no greater than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height.
- Barbecue Pits shall be attended and supervised at all times until fully extinguished.

### Sky Lanterns (Kongming Lanterns)

This policy will provide guidance on regulating sky lanterns, also known as Kongming Lanterns or “wish lanterns”. These devices are also referred to as Chinese lanterns, sky candles or fire balloons.

At this time based on the lack of specification regarding the applicability of the Fire Code to sky lanterns this department is rendering our interpretation based on both the 2006 IFC and 2012 IFC.

Sky lanterns are air borne paper lanterns that are a tradition found in some Asian cultures. They are constructed from oiled rice paper on a bamboo frame, and contain a small candle or fuel cell composed of a waxy flammable material. When lit, the flame heats the air inside the lantern, thus lowering its density causing the lantern to rise into the air. They are known to travel significant distance from the point of release.

The increased marketing and use of sky lanterns throughout the country has generated a request for clarification on the legality of these devices.

We feel these devices meet the definition of Recreational Fires, such as defined in IFC Section 302.1 of the Fire Code. These devices require constant attendance as required in Section 307.5 of the Fire Code which states “open burning, bon fires, recreational fires and the use of portable outdoor fire places shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished...”

There is a serious fire and safety hazard associated with sky lanterns, which includes the potential to start an unattended fire on or off the property from which they are released. A sky lantern cannot be controlled once released.

The official interpretation of the Iola Fire Department is to ban the use of these devices in the City Limits of Iola, KS, unless anchored or tethered.

Due to the fact that these devices can reach an altitude of 1,500 feet and travel up to 20 miles from the point of release on natural wind currents we can only hope that other local jurisdictions also decide to ban the sale and use of this device.

NOTE: Please contact the Iola Fire Department at (620) 365-4972 during business hours regarding questions, clarifications or assistance about burn regulations.

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City of Iola, Fire Chief