

Burning Regulations in Meridian Township

Two types of burning are allowed in Meridian Township, recreational fires and open burning. Most properties are eligible only for a recreational fire permit due to the zoning and size of the parcel. Properties zoned rural residential (RR) AND over 1 acre in size are eligible for both permits.

Recreational Fire Permits

It is never permissible to burn garbage, leaves, brush, grass clippings or building materials. The purpose of the recreational fire pit is to cook food or to gather around for ceremony or pleasure. A recreational fire is a below ground-level hole, with non-combustible sides, that can contain a fire. There is a 12" minimum requirement for depth and a recommendation for a 3-foot diameter. A commercially made burning appliance is also considered a recreational fire and requires the same permitting. There is a requirement that vegetation and combustibles be kept at least 2 feet away from the pit. The pit must be on one's own property and 25 feet away from a structure (includes house, shed, deck, fence, etc.). The key is that the recreational fire pit can "contain a fire". An approved pit either has a grill top at ground level or has non-combustible sides in order that wind cannot sweep the fire from the pit.

A permit is valid through December 31st of the issue year. To receive a new recreational fire permit, you will need to registering [here](#) and acknowledge the conditions online. There will be no cost for this permit.

Rural Residential (RR) Open Burning Permits

The lot must be one (1) acre or more AND zoned rural residential (RR). Open burning is limited to only those materials that grow on the lot. All RR open burning allowed by the amended ordinance must have a permit. The size of the pile is limited to 4' X 4' X 4'. There also must be a clear space 4' around the pile. RR Open Burning permits will not be issued if the wind speed is 10 mph or above.

Rules for Obtaining a Written Permit for RR Open Burning

1. Contact Station 91 at (517) 853-4791 and request a permit on the day you would like to burn.
2. If the conditions are appropriate, Fire Department personnel will come to the location of the proposed fire and inspect the site.
3. If the site is approved, a permit will be issued for that year.
4. After receiving an initial permit, subsequent burn days at the same location may be authorized over the telephone.

Rural Residential Open Burning Conditions

1. The fire site must be a minimum of 25 feet from any structure and approved by the Fire Department
2. A means of extinguishments must be on the site and approved by the Fire Department.
3. The fire must be constantly attended by an adult.
4. The applicant must completely extinguish the fire by dusk or upon order of the Fire Department.
5. The type, the size, and the quantity of the fuel must be approved by the Fire Department.
6. The maximum size of the fire pile is 4' X 4' X 4'.
7. The Fire Department may cancel the permit at any time due to changing weather conditions.
8. The Fire Department will cancel the permit due to excessive smoke or odors, or any violation of the permit.
9. The permit is valid only on the day that it is issued. Additional conditions may be applied as needed.