



## DEPARTMENT OF FIRE, BUILDING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES



City of Olean Residents,

*Recreational fires are an enjoyable way to spend time in the nice weather and the Fire Department wants to be sure you're safe and your fire complies with our City's Ordinance. Please be sure that consideration is being paid to your neighborhood and be mindful of your neighbors when having a recreational fire. Much of our city is located in a valley and on humid nights, the smoke tends to accumulate and take longer to dissipate. When you couple that with open windows in the summer, now your fire has become a nuisance to your neighbor and complaints are then made to the City of Olean Fire Department or the Police Department. The determination of a fire being categorized as a nuisance is ultimately up to the Officer-in-Charge and is based upon the City Ordinance guidelines. We at the City of Olean Fire Department feel that by educating our citizens we can alleviate the confusion and contention associated with these calls. Please be safe and considerate when enjoying your recreational fire.*

Best Regards,

Timothy Richardson  
Fire Chief

### Chapter 12: Housing Code Article IV: Recreational Fires

**General** A person shall not kindle or maintain or authorize to be kindled or maintained any open burning unless conducted and approved in accordance with this section.

**Prohibited Recreational Burning.** Open burning that will be offensive or objectionable because of smoke or odor emissions when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited.

**FIRE SAFETY** must always be followed.

- *Recreational Fire must (not be larger than 3 feet in diameter; no taller than 2 feet in height) located 15 feet from combustibile structures (houses, fences, sheds, garages, wooden decks and similar structures) and conducted on non-combustibile surfaces.*
- *Materials for burning must be clean seasoned firewood (wet wood, fresh cut wood, painted or stained wood creates smoky conditions and is not allowed to be burned).*
- *Competent adult supervision must be on site while fire is burning. A competent adult is someone over 18 years of age, not impaired by drugs, alcohol or having medical or mental conditions which could impair their ability to take proper action is required.*
- *A source of water must be available to control or extinguish any fire (charged garden house hooked up to a water supply, multiple pails of water or a 4-A fire extinguisher).*
- *No new materials can be added to the fire after 10:00 p.m., fire must be extinguished before abandoning.*
- *Fire cannot create a nuisance. Smoke and/or odors may be considered a nuisance.*
- *Outdoor portable fireplaces made of metal, ceramic and like materials and contained with that approved appliance. The approved appliances must follow these same rules and not be placed on any combustibile surfaces (decks, porches, tables, etc.) They may not be located less than 15 feet from a combustibile structure and must be extinguished before abandoning.*
- *Fuel being burned shall not include rubbish, lumber, garbage or other offensive materials. This includes but not limited to leaves, grass and landscape clippings.*

Recreational fires are a **privilege** and allowed for special occasions by the Department of Fire, Buildings & Emergency Services. A recreational fire, which creates property damage, personal injury or is deemed a nuisance, may be cause for further legal actions to be taken by the Department of Building, Fire & Emergency Services and/or the City of Olean Police Department.

***The New York State Burn ban is in effect March 16 through May 14.***