



Bristol Fire Department

Inter Office Memorandum

To: Steven Contente, Town Administrator
From: Michael DeMello, Fire Chief
cc: File
Date: June 22, 2026
Re: Board of Engineers Recommendation, July 29 Council Meeting

Please review the recommended following updates to the open burning ordinance of the town. The information is in accordance with the RI State Fire Code.

Residential Recreational Fires

- Permits shall not be required for cooking and recreational fires
- Burning is prohibited during Red Flag warning conditions
- Outdoor fires shall not be built, ignited, or maintained in or upon hazardous fire areas
- Permanent barbecues, portable barbecues, outdoor fireplaces, or grills shall not be used for the disposal of rubbish, trash, or combustible waste material
- Recreational fires shall not be located within 25 ft (7.6 m) of a structure or combustible material unless contained in an approved manner
- Conditions that could cause a fire to spread to within 25 ft (7.6 m) of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition
- Open, recreational, and cooking fires shall be constantly attended by a competent person until such fire is extinguished
- A garden hose connected to the water supply or other fire-extinguishing equipment shall be readily available for use.
- Recreational fires shall only use clean seasoned firewood, commercially available fire logs, or be gas fired and used in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations
- Burning of construction debris, pallets, trash, furniture, vegetation, or any other materials other than those listed within this ordinance are prohibited
- The fire department shall be authorized to require any fire to be immediately discontinued if the fire or smoke generated by such fire is determined to constitute a hazardous condition.

Please forward to the Town Council for their consideration.

CONCURRED
6/22/26

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