

## **Chapter 3 Open Burning**

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#### **4-3-1 Short Title**

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the *NEW MEADOWS OPEN BURNING ORDINANCE*. (Ord. 338-2015, 7-28-2015)

#### **4-3-2 Purpose And Intent**

The purpose and intent of this chapter is to eliminate all forms of open burning except those for which there is no means of producing a similar public benefit, or such as may be permitted herein, limit unnecessary emergency response by fire personnel, and to assist in tracking and pinpointing burning in the community. (Ord. 338-2015, 7-28-2015)

#### **4-3-3 Definitions**

When used in this chapter, the following words and terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section:

**AGRICULTURAL BURNING:** Open burning of plant life grown on the premises in the course of any agricultural, forestry or land clearing operation when it can be shown that such burning is necessary and that no fire hazard will occur. Convenience of disposal is not of itself a valid necessity for burning.

**APPROVED INCINERATORS:** Any source consisting of a furnace and all appurtenances thereto designated for destruction of refuse by burning. "Open incinerators" shall mean those burning containers which have been approved and certified by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. "Burning barrels" and similar devices are forms of open burning and are not considered to be approved incinerators.

**AUTHORIZED ENFORCER:** The Mayor, Building Official, Fire Wardens, Fire Chief or any member of the Fire Department, a member of the Adams County Sheriff's Office and persons specifically deputized by either the Adams County Sheriff or the Mayor of the City of New Meadows called together "authorized enforcer(s)".

**COUNCIL:** The City Council of the City of New Meadows.

**ISSUING AGENT:** The New Meadows City Clerk-Treasurer or designee.

**ODOR:** The sensation resulting from stimulation of the human sense of smell.

**OPEN BURNING:** The outdoor burning of materials where the products of combustion are not completely directed through a duct, passage, smokestack or chimney.

**PERMIT:** The City of New Meadows burning permit issued pursuant to this chapter.

**PERSON:** Any person, corporation, firm, partnership or any Federal, State or local governmental entity.

**SMOKE:** Small gasborne particles resulting from incomplete combustion, consisting predominantly, but not exclusively, of carbon and other combustible material.

**TOXIC AIR CONTAMINANTS:** Pollutants that are known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health effects, such as reproductive effects or birth defects, or to cause adverse environmental effects. Also known as toxic air pollutants, as defined by Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. (Ord. 338-2015, 7-28-2015)

#### **4-3-4 Prohibited Burning**

A. It is unlawful to deliberately or negligently start a fire under any of the following circumstances:

1. In any structure; except, it is lawful to start a fire in a fireplace, incinerator, or stove; provided, that the person(s) starting the fire has no reason to believe that use of the same is hazardous or violates applicable air quality regulations; or
2. Whether or not in a structure, using as or among the fuel: garbage, rubbish, decaying matter, processed lumber, dead animals or refuse of any kind; except, however, leaves and needles dropped by trees, limbs, splinters, and bark from wood cutting and splitting, and weeds and other vegetation when in a safe place in a fireplace or fire ring; or
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of any section of this chapter, no person shall allow, suffer, cause or permit the burning of materials which emit toxic contaminants, particulates or odors; or
4. Without a permit at any time when a permit is required, or in violation of the terms of this chapter, of such a permit, or of State fire season and open burning regulations.

B. It is prima facie evidence of such negligence in the starting of a fire that the fire escaped from the initial location of the burning so as to start a grass, brush, forest, or building fire. (Ord. 338-2015, 7-28-2015)

#### **4-3-5 Permitted Burning**

Notwithstanding the provisions of previous sections of this chapter, the following types of fires shall be allowed:

A. Fires Requiring A Permit: The following types of fires may be allowed by permit only:

1. Agricultural burning;
2. Fires used for control or alleviation of fire hazard or for weed control when no alternative control exists;
3. Fires used in the training of organized firefighting personnel;
4. Special fires allowed at the discretion of the authorized enforcer wherein the fire is to be located. Special fires are fires not falling into subsections A1, A2 and A3 of this section.

B. Fires Allowed Without A Permit: Fires used for the preparation of food and campfires, recreational/hobby fires such as those used in the construction of pottery or steel works and ceremonial fires under control of a responsible person that is not intoxicated and over the age of eighteen (18) shall not require a permit. (Ord. 338-2015, 7-28-2015)

#### **4-3-6 Permit Requirements**

A. Permit Required; Fee:

1. Burning permits are required for any open burning at times when State fire season regulations do not require permits, city permits shall be issues free of charge. No permit may be issued if the State, County or City has declared a closure on open burning nor shall any person conduct open burning during any such period of closure. (ORD.387-2023,1-23-23)
2. The City Clerk shall require a signed permit by each applicant. Permits shall be completed and turned into City Hall with an applicable fee as set from time to time by resolution of the City Council.

B. Permit Forwarded To Governmental Bodies: Once a permit and permit fee have been turned over to the City Clerk-Treasurer or his/her designee, the permit shall be promptly routed to the Meadows Valley Rural Fire Protection District Fire Chief, Adams County Sheriff's Office Dispatch and Payette National Forest, New Meadows Ranger District.

C. Contents Of Permit: All permits must contain the following conditions on the face or obverse of such permit:

1. Name, address, and phone number of the applicant and permittee.
2. Location of the proposed burning.
3. Conditions under which burning is to be allowed.
4. Signature of the issuing officer.

5. Signature of the permittee.
6. Materials that are to be burned.
7. Beginning date of the burn to the extinguished date.

D. Permittee Agreement: All permittee applicants shall agree to the following:

1. The permittee shall keep the fire under the permittee's control and supervision at all times until the same has been completely extinguished;
2. The permittee shall place the fire at least fifty (50) feet from any structure. If the pile is smaller than 2 feet in height and 3 feet in diameter, it must be placed at least twenty-five (25) feet from any structure. Fires in approved containers must be placed 15 feet from structures.
3. The permittee shall have at the place of the fire a garden hose connected to a pressurized water supply, or shall have at such place other Fire Department approved fire extinguishing equipment, in either case, readily available for use, until the fire has been completely extinguished; and
4. The permittee, by seeking and accepting such permit, and by conducting such open burning, becomes responsible and agrees to be responsible to pay all costs of suppression of a fire escaping from the permittee's control. "Costs of suppression" means costs incurred by the City of New Meadows, the Meadows Valley Rural Fire Protection District, Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association, or by any other agency which responds to such fire.
5. The Permittee shall follow all International Fire Code regulations, as have been adopted by the City of New Meadows.
6. The permittee shall not burn materials listed as hazardous in the International Fire Code regulations.

E. Term Of Permit; Renewals: Initial permits shall only be valid for one week from the date of issuance. A new permit will be required for each subsequent week. Subsequent permits may be purchased at a discount if purchased within a six (6) month period, however still only valid for the week (7 days) issued.

F. Appeals For Denial Of Permit: Any person denied a burning permit by the issuing agent may, within thirty (30) days, appeal that decision in writing to the City Council. The Council shall rule on said appeal within twenty (20) days of receipt thereof. (Ord. 338-2015, 7-28-2015)

#### HISTORY

Amended by Ord. [379-2022](#) on 8/8/2022

Amended by Ord. [387-2023](#) on 1/23/2023

### **4-3-7 Special Enforcement**

Without limiting their authority under this section, authorized enforcers may require that open burning be immediately extinguished upon determining that smoke emissions are unreasonably offensive or potentially harmful to the occupants of the same or surrounding properties, or upon determining that the open burning is hazardous. (Ord. 338-2015, 7-28-2015; amd. 2018 Code)

#### **4-3-8 Penalties**

- A. Violation of this chapter carries a civil penalty of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per violation to be assessed by the City's authorized enforcer(s). The penalty shall be paid to the City Clerk-Treasurer within ten (10) days of issuance or in the time and manner allotted by the authorized enforcer's agency and then forwarded to the City Clerk-Treasurer. (Ord. 338-2015, 7-28-2015; amd. 2018 Code),(Ord.379-2022)
- B. If the civil penalty goes unpaid for more than thirty (30) days, the City Prosecuting Attorney will issue a misdemeanor summons, to be served on the violator by the Adams County Sheriff's Office, to appear before the Adams County Magistrate.
- C. All penalties collected under this section shall be deposited into the fines and forfeitures account within the City's accounting system. (Ord. 338-2015, 7-28-2015)