

GRAND RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

***Robert M. Radakovitz
Director of Public Safety Services***

BURN PERMIT REGULATIONS

Ordinance No. 320

Section 6 – Burning on Large Tracts

It shall be lawful for any person, after first obtaining a burning permit issued by the Fire Department, to burn trash upon premises owned or occupied by such person if such premises are of such size and so situated that the burning takes place at least three hundred (300) feet from the nearest public street or highway, at least five hundred (500) feet from the nearest dwelling owned or occupied by any other person, and at least one hundred (100) feet from any building located on the premises; provided, however, that this section shall not be construed to permit the operation of a dump upon premises which meet the above specifications.

Section 7 – Special Exceptions

Whenever it shall appear that a large amount of trash has accumulated upon certain premises, that the disposal of such trash is necessary to the health and welfare of the Township, that the premises are such that trash will not continue to accumulate after it is once disposed of and that it is unreasonable to require the disposal of the trash by some method other than burning, the Fire Department may issue a permit for the burning of such trash; provided, however, that such permit shall not be issued unless the burning meets all of the distance requirements set forth under Section 6 of the Ordinance.

Section 8 – Enforcement

- (a) **Penalty.** Any person who violates any provision of this Ordinance, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or by imprisonment in the Kent County Jail for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days, or both such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court.
- (b) **Cost Recovery.** Any person, partnership, corporation, or other legal entity who burns or allows burning in violation of this Ordinance or any condition imposed on any permit issued pursuant to this Ordinance is responsible for the reimbursement to the Township of the expenses of suppressing such a fire. The Township Fire Chief shall submit to the Township Board a detailed listing of all expenses incurred by the Township in suppressing such a fire.

- (c) The Township Board, by motion, may direct that an invoice for such expenses, or any portion thereof, shall be forwarded to the responsible party. The responsible party shall pay such invoice within thirty (30) days of receipt of the bill. For any amounts due that remain unpaid after thirty (30) days, the Township shall impose a late charge of one percent (1%) per month, or fraction thereof. Expenses incurred by the Township may include, but are not limited to, hourly charges for fire department equipment and vehicles as established from time to time by the Township Board, the wages, salaries, fringe benefits and insurance of those fire fighters responding to the fire, and the costs of billing and collecting those expenses, including actual attorneys fees.
- (d) Other Remedies. The Township may pursue any other remedy, or may institute any appropriate action or proceeding in a court of competent jurisdiction to collect charges imposed under this ordinance. The recovery of charges imposed under this ordinance does not limit liability of responsible parties under local ordinance or state or federal law, rule or regulation.

Permit Holders Shall:

- Be in physical attendance of the fire at all times (no more than 100 feet away) when burning.
- Have in his/her possession, at the time of the burn, the Township issued burn permit
- Have adequate means of extinguishment at the burn site, by way of example – a charged garden hose.

The on duty fire department supervisor has the authority to suspend and/or revoke the burn permit, if in his/her discretion conditions are not conducive to open burning.

I, the permit holder, have read and understand the aforementioned burn permit regulations issued by the Grand Rapids Charter Township Fire Department. Furthermore I understand I could be held civilly and criminally responsible for any actions or inactions arising out of the violation of the burn permit and burn permit regulations.

Signed:

Permit holder

date