



**To Burn or not to Burn, that is the Burning question.**

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During the spring and fall months as you travel through rural areas of Pennsylvania, you are almost sure to see or smell smoke coming from either a backyard burn pile or burn barrel. For many Pennsylvanians, especially in municipalities without curbside trash collection or mandated recycling, burning is the easiest way to get rid of household trash and yard waste. As rural areas are becoming more populated, many municipalities in the commonwealth have adopted ordinances restricting open burning, like the Borough of Elverson. This is to ensure a safe and healthy environment to work, live and grow in.

The open burning of household and yard waste like domestic trash, foliage, vegetation, sticks and branches in the Borough of Elverson is prohibited by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Burning of waste or rubbish for the purpose of waste disposal represents a violation of both the air quality regulations in force in the Southeastern Pennsylvania Air Basin as well as the State's municipal recycling requirements. As a result, the Borough Council has adopted an ordinance covered under zoning that states;

1. The emission of dust, dirt, fly ash, fumes, vapors or gases which can cause any damage to human health to animals or vegetation or to other forms of property or which can cause any soiling or staining of persons or property at any point beyond the lot lines of the use creating the emission is herewith prohibited.

2. No user shall emit or cause or allow to be permitted to escape into the open air, air contaminant of a quantity or quality which will violate any provision in this Ordinance or any other applicable regulation.
3. No user shall cause, allow, permit, kindle, ignite, or maintain any bonfire, junk fire, refuse, open fire, operations fire or any other open fire.
4. No Firm or corporation shall permit or cause the discharge of particulate matter into the atmosphere from incinerator in excess of 0.1 grains per cubic foot of gas at standard conditions corrected to twelve (12) percent Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), except as designated under specific contaminants.

Small fires set solely for recreational purposes, (as defined by PA DEP or the PA State Fire Code) are permitted in the Borough. A recreational fire is an outdoor open fire that is no larger than 3 feet in diameter and no more than 2 feet in height, built for pleasure, cooking, warmth, or religious or ceremonial purposes. The users must be present while the fire is burning to ensure that the fire is contained and under control at all times. The use of outdoor fireplaces, portable outdoor fireplaces, barbeque grills and barbeque pits is also permitted under the current regulations.

If you have any other questions or concerns regarding open burning in the Borough of Elverson, please contact the Borough Offices during normal business hours at (610) 610-286-6420 or e-mail at [secretary@elversonboro.org](mailto:secretary@elversonboro.org). If your question or concern arises after normal business hours and/or is more urgent and you need to talk to someone as soon as possible, please contact the Chester County Department of Emergency Services' 911 center at (610) 692-5100 and ask to have Elverson Borough's Fire Marshal contact you.