From the Chief...

The Division of Fire's mission is to provide superior fire, emergency medical, educational and prevention services to the citizens we serve. By consistently delivering these services in a courteous, safe and professional manner, we hope to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Vandalia.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Vandalia's Fire Prevention Bureau if you have any questions about open burn permits, or any of the other fire prevention services we provide.

Sincerely,

Chad E. Follick
Fire Chief

Vandalia Fire Division
8705 Peters Pike
Vandalia, Ohio 45377
937-898-2261

Vandalia Fire Division

OPEN BURN PERMITS

Safety Series

the safe way to burn

To ensure your safety and that of your property, the VFD requires that you apply for an open burn permit before holding any recreational fire on your property. These permits are free and can be obtained at Fire Station One.

Here are some important guidelines to keep in mind if you are planning an open burn. And, as always, if you have any questions, you can talk to any of the members of Vandalia's Fire Prevention Bureau at 898-2261.

what's the difference?

A **bonfire** is an outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes.

Open burning is defined as any outdoor fire that is not enclosed in any sort of container. In open burning, the by-products of the fire -- gases, ashes and soot, for instance -- are thus emitted directly into the air.

An outdoor fire utilized to cook food for human consumption is a **recreational fire**.

why do i need a permit?

The Vandalia Division of Fire requires that anyone planning to conduct an open burn on their property must first obtain a permit. This allows the VFD the opportunity to inspect your proposed burn location for safety and compliance to Unified Fire Code guidelines. It also helps the City to track where and when fires will be held.

where do i get one?

A permit for open burning can be obtained at the VFD's headquarters:

Vandalia Fire Station One
8705 Peters Pike
Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

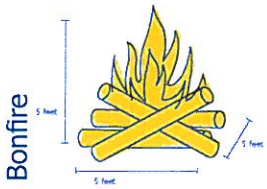
There is no charge for an open burn permit. Please notify the Division of Fire Dispatch at 898-4494 prior to lighting your fire.

site inspection

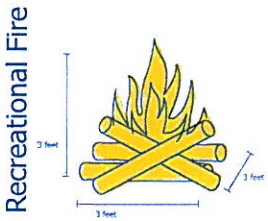
After you have applied for an open burn permit, a member of the VFD's Fire Prevention Bureau will come to inspect the site. Also, the VFD reserves the right to revoke a permit if its guidelines are not followed.

size matters

A bonfire can be no larger than 5 ft by 5 ft by 5 ft in dimension and cannot burn longer than three hours.



Recreational fires are restricted to cooking for human consumption. A recreational fire cannot exceed 3 ft by 3 ft by 3 ft in dimension and burn no longer than three hours.



location, location, location

Any open burning, recreational fire or bonfire should be at least 150 feet from any structure -- with no possibility of spreading. Fire in approved containers must be at least 50 feet from any structure. Distances may be modified by the code official upon inspection.

materials to burn

Only seasoned firewood that generates a minimum of air contaminants can be used as fuel for any open burning, recreational fire or bonfire. The fire can be ignited with a small quantity of paper but cannot be used for waste disposal purposes.

stay close...stay safe

Any open burning, recreational fire or bonfire must be constantly attended by an adult until the fire is completely extinguished. Also, a means of extinguishment -- fire extinguisher, dirt, sand, water barrel or garden hose -- must be readily available while the fire is burning.

let us know!

Dispatch must be notified prior to each and every burn. No exceptions! Dispatch can be reached at 898-4494. Remember -- you must notify them prior to enjoying your backyard fire.