
CITATIONS

Any party who has started or maintained a recreational fire shall pay any and all costs incurred by the city for any service related call as a result of a recreational fire not in compliance with the requirements of this chapter.

Citations shall be issued by the police department for failure to comply with the above requirements and the property owner, renter, and/or lessee shall be held liable for any damages caused by any recreational fire, including the cost of the citation.

No burning permit fine:

- \$71.00

Violation of ordinance restrictions / conditions:

- 1st Offense: \$102.00
- 2nd Offense: \$151.00
- 3rd Offense: \$257.00

OFD's mission is focused on saving lives and protecting property by:

- Creating a safer community to live and work.
- Providing the best and safest fire and first responder protection possible.
- Educating children, adults, and businesses on the dangers of fire.
- Developing fire/fall prevention programs for senior citizen communities.
- Being leaders and role models within the community.

*Desire to Serve, Ability to Perform,
and Courage to Act*



Onalaska Fire Department
415 Main Street
Onalaska, WI. 54650
Phone: (608) 781-9546



City of Onalaska Recreational Fire Safety Brochure



Onalaska Fire
Department



RECREATIONAL FIRE PERMIT AND USE REQUIREMENTS

City of Onalaska Municipal Code provides regulations relating to the use of recreational fires. A recreational fire is defined as any small fire in an approved, self-enclosing portable device or non-combustible structure located at a residence for the purposes of recreation and personal enjoyment. With the exception of fires used in approved outdoor cooking devices that are fueled by natural gas, propane, or charcoal, a city permit must be obtained prior to having a recreational fire. An informational safety brochure shall be issued with each permit.

1. Recreational Fire Season and Cost:

Season January 1—December 31
Seasonal Rate \$40.00 (2 years)
Renewal Rate \$40.00

2. Burning Times:

7:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

3. Minimum Safety Procedures to be followed:

- Recreational fires shall be no closer than 15 feet from any building, structure, property line, or any other combustible materials. Nor shall a person maintain a fire for more than four continuous hours per day.
 - Only portable devices or non-combustible structures that are listed and approved and have lids and ember arresting screens shall be used.
 - Portable devices (Defined as *devices commercially designed and intended to contain and control outdoor wood fires*) shall be used IAW the manufacturer's recommendations and must be employed upon a non-combustible surface.
 - The width of the non-combustible surface must be twice the height of the approved portable device or non-combustible structure.
 - All recreational fires shall have a diameter of no more than 3 feet and may not extend more than two feet high. No person shall maintain a recreational fire in an approved portable device or non-combustible structure so that flames extend beyond the fire chamber.
 - All lids and ember arresting screens shall be properly employed and in tact during recreational fires.
 - No recreational fire shall be started or allowed to continue burning when the wind direction or wind speed will cause smoke, embers, or other burning materials to be carried by the wind toward any other combustible and/or flammable materials. *Wind speeds MAY NOT be in excess of 10 mph.*
 - Smoke from any recreational fire shall not create a nuisance for neighboring property owners. Persons with permits are encouraged to speak with surrounding neighbors regarding recreational fire usage to reduce the possibility of nuisance complaints. The fire shall be extinguished immediately upon the complaint of a neighboring property owner in regard to nuisance smoke.
 - Material for fires shall not include rubbish, garbage, recyclable items, trash, any material made of or coated with rubber, plastic, leather or petroleum based materials, and shall not contain any flammable or combustible liquids.
 - Only clean, dry, and untreated wood shall be burned, provided that the wood does not extend outside of the fireplace. NO CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS.
 - Either a charged water hose, or a 5-gallon water bucket, or a 5-lb ABC fire extinguisher must be available in a safe location near the recreational fire.
 - All recreational fires shall be attended by at least one responsible person of age 18 or older from the ignition of the fire until the fire is completely extinguished.
 - No person may use approved portable devices or non-combustible structures above the ground floor on premises occupied as a multi-family dwelling, hotel, motel, boarding house, dormitory, bed and breakfast establishment, commercial or industrial building.
 - The renter/lessee of any leased property must provide written documentation from the owner, giving permission to have a recreational fire on that property.
 - The property owner and/or person who has started any recreational fire shall hold the city harmless from any and all such liability for any damages caused by a recreational fire.
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