

## DID YOU KNOW?

- 1. Revised Code.** You can view the entire Revised Code of the Consolidated City and County- Indianapolis/Marion online at [www.municode.com](http://www.municode.com).
- 2. Enforcement.** Violation of this ordinance will result in a warning, ticket or summons to court. Warnings are often issued to first time residential violators and/or to violators causing a nuisance to health or businesses.
- 3. Citations.** Civil zoning citations in the amount of \$50.00 are issued for continued non-compliance with one of the listed zoning violations.
- 4. Repeat Violations.** Failure to comply with this ordinance may result in fines up to \$2,500.00.

To report illegal open burning or other neighborhood concerns, contact:

MAYOR'S ACTION CENTER

327-4MAC (4622)  
[www.indy.gov/mac](http://www.indy.gov/mac)

## Department of Code Enforcement

*Putting public safety and quality of life issues first through efficiently and effectively administering:*

- **LICENSES**
- **PERMITS**
- **INSPECTIONS**

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*For a complete list of services and resources, visit [www.indy.gov/dce](http://www.indy.gov/dce) or*

*contact us via:*

**1200 Madison Ave., Suite 100**

**Indianapolis, IN 46225**

**Phone: (317) 327-8700**

**Fax: (317) 327-8696**

**LOBBY HOURS:**

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday**

**8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

**Wednesday**

**Noon - 5 p.m.**

**Friday**

**9 a.m. - 5 p.m.**



Department of Code Enforcement  
**Indianapolis**  
Gregory A. Ballard, Mayor

## OPEN BURNING



**SMOKE FROM OPEN BURNING CAN DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH!**

## THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT OPEN BURNING

Before you light that fire, please remember to burn wood products that do not cause annoyance, nuisance, or interfere with the health and well being of any individual located anywhere in the surrounding area. This would include creating a hazard that would interfere with the normal use and enjoyment of anyone in their home, place of employment, or place of recreation. Also, remember that any burning is to be attended by an adult at all times until completely extinguished.

The major provisions for open burning are as follows:

1. Only residents of Marion County may burn.
2. Only dried twigs, limbs and branches originating from the property can be burned. **LEAVES, PAPER, TRASH, TREATED WOOD, OR GARBAGE ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BE BURNED.**
3. A non-combustible container with a ventilated mesh covering with openings no greater than 1/4 of an inch must be used.
4. Burning is allowed only between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.
5. Burning must occur at least fifteen (15) feet from any structure.
6. Water or other means of extinguishment must be maintained throughout the course of the burn.
7. The burning of wood products at a business or where the fire creates a nuisance is not allowed.

## SMOKE FROM OPEN BURNING CAN NEGATIVELY IMPACT YOUR HEALTH

The nature and quantity of smoke generated by burning varies depending on the type of materials being burned and the current environmental conditions. However, all smoke contains pollutants, some of which are toxic. These pollutants can harm the health of your family and neighbors, as well as the environment. Additionally, fires, if not controlled, can create a nuisance or destroy property.

Smoke from burning 5 pounds of leaves contains about 1 pound of air pollution. Once airborne, the smoke drifts off your property and into the surrounding area. Because the smoke is relatively close to the ground, there is a high likelihood that it could be inhaled before dispersing into the atmosphere causing irritation to the eyes, nose, throat and lungs.

The smoke often has the greatest impact on people with asthma, emphysema, bronchitis, pneumonia or allergies. It is not uncommon for smoke from open burning to exacerbate these conditions, which could lead to severe difficulty breathing. Individuals with pre-existing lung problems and women who are pregnant or nursing women could suffer more serious health effects.

Repeated exposure to smoke can also cause developmental problems in children and increase the chances of developing cancer. Even healthy children are affected by small particles of mold, fungi and chemical pollutants present in smoke.

## ALTERNATIVES TO BURNING

### Solid Waste Disposal

One good alternative to burning yard waste like twigs and small limbs is disposing them as a solid waste. Twigs and small limbs from shrubbery cuttings must be tied in bundles no larger than 3 feet by 3 feet. Each bundle will count as one bag that can be collected by Solid Waste on designated street trash pickup day. Solid Waste collectors will pickup 10 bags per week per resident. The following items will not be picked up:

- \* Trees
- \* Large tree limbs
- \* Tree stumps
- \* Brush and vegetation from tree trimmers or lawn services

### Composting

Composting is the use of decaying organic matter such as leaves, twigs, grass clippings, etc. as fertilizer. Composting is a logical way to improve the soil conditions in your lawn, garden or planter. It is less expensive to compost your yard waste than to bag it and haul it away.

Nearly all yard wastes can go into a compost heap. Consult a local hardware or home improvement store for tips and the latest composting tools.