

Town of Polk
Ordinance No: 10-09
Ordinance Relating Campfires and Bonfires Within the Town of Polk

The Town of Polk of Washington County, does hereby ordain as follows:

BONFIRES & CAMPFIRES.

Bonfire: An outdoor fire of clean, untreated wood kindled to mark a public event, victory celebration, or similar occurrence.

Campfire: A small outdoor fire constructed within a fire pit or surrounded by a fire ring: intended for recreation or cooking.

Firepit: A barrier to keep the fire from escaping out of control. Constructed of stones, tire rim, or commercial fire rings at least 11 inches deep.

- (1) Location Restricted. Permitted bonfires shall be located not less than 50 (fifty) feet from any structure, hay stack, fuel storage, overhanging branches, and dense dry grass.
- (2) Materials for Burning. Materials for bonfires shall consist of dry material only, and shall follow the same restricted materials listed in 5.11 of the Town Code, Burning Permit Regulations.
- (3) Prohibited Activity. Using accelerants (oil, waste oil, gasoline, diesel fuel, etc.) to either start, accelerate, or prolong the burn is prohibited.
- (4) Size of the Bonfire. The base of the fire shall not be larger than 10 feet in diameter, with bare soil around where your campfire is going to be. The fire must be enclosed by barrier set at a distance sufficient enough to provide maximum safety, and be constantly monitored by the person responsible for scene security.
- (5) Scene Security. A responsible person shall be designated for the safety of the bonfire area. This person must be identified as the contact person to meet with the Fire Department if any unusual concerns arise.
- (6) Adequate Fire Suppression. An adequate fire suppression source must be immediately available sufficient to extinguish the fire if it threatens the safety of the event. A water source, under pressure, must be available and able to surround the entire burn pile.
- (7) Extinguishment. After completion of the celebration the bonfire must be completely extinguished and a fire watch must be provided for a sufficient amount of time to ensure that the fire does not rekindle. Check the entire area outside the fire circle for any hot embers. Add water to your fire to extinguish and stir until it is cold.
- (8) Complaints. Complaints received by the Fire/Police Departments regarding smoke or ash residue infringing on adjacent properties will require the such fires be immediately extinguished or be subject to the general penalty of this code.

(9) Right of Entry and Inspection. Any representative of the local Fire Department or Police/Sheriff's Department in Washington County who presents credentials, may inspect any property for the purpose of ascertaining compliance with the provisions of this ordinance. The Fire Chief or Police/Sheriff also may access the property to extinguish uncontrolled fire in order to protect the safety of persons and property.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and posting.

Adopted this 8th day of June, 2010.

_____, Chairman Albert Schulteis

_____, Supervisor Harold Groth

_____, Supervisor Theodore Merten

Attested By: _____,
Marlyss K. Thiel, Town Clerk

