

City of Leesville

Open Burning Regulations



What is Open Burning? Open burning is the burning of unwanted materials such as paper, trees, brush, leaves, grass and other debris where smoke and other emissions are released. During this process, the smoke does not pass through a chimney or stack and the waste is not controlled.

Learn Before
You Burn in
Leesville



OPEN BURNING IS ALLOWED FOR:

- Leaves, weeds, brush, stumps, clean wood and other vegetative debris
- Recreational fires and ceremonial fires where a fire is appropriate and is not used for disposal purposes.
- The operation of barbecue equipment.
- Fires set or permitted by a public agency for official duties associated with weed abatement, prevention or elimination of a fire hazard, a hazard to public health or safety, or the instruction of employees in the methods of firefighting.

All burns must comply with the requirements of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources.

DO NOT BURN

Air quality and solid waste regulations prohibit the open burning of some materials.

- Construction and Demolition Waste -- chemically treated lumber, as well as synthetic and painted building materials contain high concentrations of hazardous compounds that produce toxic emissions when burned.
- Hazardous Materials, including oil based paints, solvents, garden chemicals and car fluids are extremely dangerous .

City of Leesville
(337) 238-2444
cityadmin@leesvillela.gov
<http://www.leesvillela.gov>

Alternatives to Burning Waste

Reuse: Unwanted clothing, furniture, and toys can be donated to a local charity and given to friends. Lumber and other construction supplies can be saved for future projects or dropped off at our local habitat reuse center.

Recycle newspapers, office paper, cardboard, corrugated cardboard, magazines, aluminum, metal and acceptable plastics.

Compost Leaves and plant clippings.

Chip Brush and Wood to make mulch or decorative chips, or use it as heating fuel in a wood stove or boiler. The township has an annual brush drop off where we chip your brush.

Dispose of allowable waste materials at neighborhood landfills.

Remove hazardous materials, including oil based paints, solvents, garden chemicals and car fluids to a hazardous waste collection site.



Trash fires.

It shall be unlawful for any person to start or set any trash fire or to burn paper, grass, trash or debris where such fire is not protected by a proper furnace or incinerator, within the municipality limits. Provided, however, that where property is being improved, the burning of debris or combustible materials will be allowed by permit only. A permit may be obtained from the city administrator with the approval of the fire chief, upon payment of the permit fee of \$5.00.

(Article 53, Model Municipal Criminal Code, adopted by Commission Series Ord. No. 92 of 3-8-71; Ord. No. 14, 5-14-79)

- A. In accordance with Leesville City Ordinance Sec. 54-106, No person shall burn, cause to be burned, or permit to be burned any fire inside the boundary of the municipality without the following exceptions. Both the person igniting such fire and the owner of the land upon which such fire may occur shall be equally responsible for compliance with the requirements of this section.
- B. All open burning shall comply with the following:
- 1) Before a property owner is authorized to set a fire on his/her property, the property owner must have a signed Burning Permit on file with the City of Leesville Fire Department.
 - 2) Permit may be obtained from the City Administrator or the Chief of the Fire Department.
 - 3) Any open pile of material burned shall be at least 50 feet from any structure, be only 3'x5' in space, wood or lumber pile or wooden fence, or other combustible material, and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 50 feet of such items.
 - 4) Burning shall be allowed in barrels or containers only if such barrels or containers are constructed and vented

so as to prevent smoke from spreading beyond property lines that is offensive to neighboring property owners. Barrels and containers used for burning shall be kept at least 25 feet from any structure or materials described as hazardous.

5) Such burning and the disposal of ash residue shall not be permitted on or within any improved street, drainage ditch, alley, parkway, public place, or public right-of-way.

6) Fuel for burning shall consist of dry material only and shall not be ignited with flammable or combustible liquid.

7) Material for burning shall not include rubbish, garbage, trash, any material made of or coated with rubber, plastic, leather or petroleum-based materials and may not contain any flammable liquids.

8) No burning shall be permitted between 1/2 hour after sunset and 7:00 a.m., and all fires shall be completely extinguished by 1/2 hour after sunset. Burning shall be prohibited when the wind velocity exceeds nine miles per hour or when drought conditions exist.

9) Burning shall be physically supervised by a competent person at least 18 years of age and personally attended by such person within sight of such burning until such fire is completely extinguished. Necessary extinguishing agents shall be readily available.

10) No fire shall be conducted or permitted which results in smoke that is offensive to neighboring property owners or creates a nuisance for others.

C. Burning of stumps in place, wood for construction purposes, or clearing of land shall be permitted only under the following conditions:

- 1) Authorization for said burning is obtained from the Fire Chief or his designee.
- 2) The following are exempt from the provisions of this section:
 - Cooking fires and barbecue pits, grills and outdoor fireplaces.

- Any fires inside of a structure, including but not limited to fireplaces and incinerators.
- Fires set for training or instruction of fire fighters or testing of fire equipment.
- Fire specifically approved in writing by the Fire Chief or his designee

D. The Mayor or his designee and/or City Fire Chief or his designee may suspend all burning or attach additional restrictions to burning when deemed necessary due to atmospheric or other conditions. The Mayor, Fire Chief, or his/her designee, is responsible for maintaining the answering system.

E. Any person who shall violate any provision of this section or any regulation made hereunder shall be issued a citation with the forfeiture stated at \$50, plus court costs, for the first violation and \$100, plus court costs, for subsequent violations. In addition to such forfeitures and costs, in the event a violation results in the response of the City of Leesville Fire Department, said violator shall be assessed an additional charge of \$200, said assessment to be paid to the City of Leesville. (Article 53, Model Municipal Criminal Code, adopted by Commission Series Ord. No. 92 of 3-8-71)

By clicking here, you acknowledge that you have read and understand these instructions.

If you have any questions, please call the Planning & Zoning office at (337) 239-2444.

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