

Open Burning Guidelines

No Person shall kindle or maintain any open burning or any such fire except as authorized by Article 307 of the International Fire code as promulgated in Sec. 6-9-60 of South Carolina Code of Laws and 10-81 of Spartanburg County Code of Ordinances within the unincorporated areas of Spartanburg County.

Any open burning of leaves, tree branches or yard trimmings must be located no closer than 50 feet from any structure. (307.4 IFC)

The burning must be constantly attended by a competent person until extinguished and must have at least one fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating or other code approved fire extinguishing equipment located on the site. (307.5 IFC) Combustible or flammable liquids or materials shall not be used as fuel for any fire.

Fires that are permitted:

a.

Bonfires, recreational fires, highway safety flares and heating for warmth of workers outside and similar occupational needs.

b.

Bonfires shall be no more than 5 feet by 5 feet in dimensions and shall not burn for more than three hours without special exception from the code official. The size may be increased by the code official when it is determined that fire safety requirements have been met.:

c.

Open burning for workers and similar occupancies shall be in approved noncombustible containers located a minimum of 15 feet from structures.

d.

Any burning that is related to vegetative debris related to forestry, wildlife, and agricultural burns, authorized by the state forestry commission.

e.

Any burning that has prior approval from the DHEC. (Air and Water quality)

Fires that are prohibited:

a.

When atmospheric conditions or other conditions exist that makes fires hazardous. (307.1.1 IFC)

b.

The following materials shall not be burned in an open fire, Asphalt materials, paint, plastics, household garbage, tires, chemicals demolition debris and other materials. ((307.1.2.1 IFC)

c.

No material may be added to the fire after 3:00 p.m .on the day of the burn and 9:00 a.m. on the day after the burn. (Exception fires in connection with preparation of food for immediate consumption, campfires, and ceremonial occasions, or for human warmth and those fires that are already regulated by DHEC.

PROCESS FOR CODE OFFICIAL RESPONDING TO COMPLAINT

After responding to a complaint the officer will make a determination if there is a violation of Section 307 of the IFC. If the officer finds that there is a violation then he or she will request the person or persons to extinguish the fire themselves, failure to comply with the order will result in the officer contacting County Communications on a (non-emergency number or by radio) to dispatch the local fire department serving the area to extinguish the fire.

The person or person will be given a written warning at that time for the violation using the Uniform Notice of Violation Order. If another complaint is received and the same violation is observed by the officer then a summons may be issued.