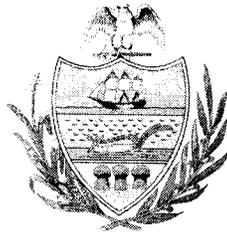


COUNTY OF



RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

ALLEGHENY

RECEIVED
JAN 19 2015

On November 5th, 2014, the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) passed a ~~revision to its Open~~ *dr*
Burning regulation. The changes affect all citizens of Allegheny County, and were made in order to
better protect public and environmental health.

We are contacting you today to make you aware of the new regulation which ACHD began enforcing on
January 1st, 2015. As local municipal officials, we rely on you to help us reach all Allegheny County
residents, and to gauge the needs of your constituents.

ACHD inspectors will do their part to respond to citizen complaints and enforce the regulation, however,
municipal or local government units are also authorized to enforce this regulation and can often
respond while open burning is occurring. ACHD encourages municipalities, local fire departments, and
local police departments to work together to minimize nuisance burning.

Open burning in Allegheny County is defined as any fire or combustion from which air contaminants
pass directly into the open air without passing through a flue. The definition of open burning has been
revised to include any fire or combustion which occurs in a chiminea, fire pit, outdoor fireplace, or grill.
The ACHD open burning regulation has been in place since about 1970 in order to minimize the public
health hazards of open burning. Since wood smoke contains fine particulate pollution and air toxics, and
can aggravate respiratory and cardiovascular health issues, this revision further strengthens the rule to
reduce this impact.

The revised Open Burning regulation gives greater discretion to ACHD, and municipal, inspectors to end
fires that are unhealthy, or causing a nuisance. It also sets limits on burning, including limiting fires to a
maximum overall size of 3 feet wide by 3 feet long by 2 feet high for wood burning.

The regulation also restricts materials that may be combusted in open burning to clean wood, propane,
or natural gas, with exceptions that allow for using charcoal in outdoor fireplaces or grills for the
purpose of cooking, and also for using fire logs, paraffin logs or wood pellets in outdoor fireplaces.

Importantly, the regulation restricts all recreational open burning, except for the commercial
preparation of food, on air quality action days. This restriction is not applicable to charcoal or propane
grills. Air quality action days occur when the Air Quality Index (AQI), a measurement of pollution levels
in the region, is at the "orange" or "unhealthy" level. In 2013, there were 15 air quality action days.
Allegheny Alerts, a free County notification system, can be used to alert officials and citizens of air
quality action days when burning is prohibited. Signups can be made online at
www.alleghenycounty.us/alerts. Alerts are free and can be delivered via email, text, or through a free

ACHD Open Burning Regulation

FACT SHEET

- No material other than clean wood, propane, or natural gas may be open burned EXCEPT for:
 - Commercially available fire logs, paraffin logs, or wood pellets;
 - Paper or commercial smokeless fire starters in order to start a fire;
 - Charcoal for the preparation of food only.

- Fires may be no larger than 3' wide by 3' long by 2' high.

- Fires must be at least 15 feet from the nearest neighbor's dwelling or inhabited area, including:
 - Property line
 - Roadway
 - Sidewalk
 - Public access area

- Wood burning activities are prohibited on Air Quality Action days, with the exception of burning for the commercial preparation of food
 - Subscribe to receive email, text, or smart phone app notifications of burn ban days at www.alleghenycounty.us/alerts

- Burning may be prohibited or reduced if it is considered a nuisance, based on the following criteria:
 - The severity of the amount of air pollutants;
 - The duration or frequency of open burning;
 - The topography of the surroundings;
 - The meteorological conditions.

- Open burning permits are available for ceremonies fostering of agriculture, abatement of a public health hazard, and firefighting instruction; however, all permitted open burning is prohibited on Air Quality Action Days.
 - Contact ACHD at (412) 578-7963 for more information