

# BURNING GUIDELINES

S.A.F.E.R

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Everest Metro Police Department

This pamphlet should provide the reader with sufficient information about all types of burning issues in the Village of Weston, Town of Weston and City of Schofield. These are condensed guidelines and the local municipal ordinances should be consulted for more detailed information.

## Village of Weston:

The following information is condensed from the Weston Municipal Code, specifically Chapter 34, Fire Prevention and Protection. It is strongly suggested that you go to the Village Website and read the full version of this code.

**Burning Permits:** Burning permits are not required for recreational fires or cooking fires. All other burning will require a permit and is subject to the conditions outlined in Chapter 34 of the Municipal Code and all other applicable State and Federal laws, rules, and regulations. If you need a burning permit you may apply for the permit at the Weston Safety Building, Monday through Friday, between 8:00AM and 4:00PM. Only controlled burning of agricultural materials, forestry debris or prairie areas on parks, farms, wildlife sanctuaries, and cemeteries is allowed; provided such burns are issued a current permit by the fire department, the smoke and products of combustion do not create a hazard to nearby streets or a noxious atmosphere for neighbors, the burns are attended by personnel who have readily available firefighting equipment, and the Fire Chief has not declared a no burn period due to dry conditions, or other unfavorable weather. Such burns shall be restricted to properties of at least five acres under single ownership, and this permit process shall not be construed to allow property owners to burn leaves, grass, trees, or landscape debris from their individual properties.

- Outdoor cooking at apartment houses:** Multi-family dwellings of three or more separate occupancies, may not conduct any outdoor cooking using any device within fifteen (15) feet of the structure or above the ground floor.
- Outdoor Fireplaces:** Recreational burning in outdoor fireplaces, which are fueled by propane or natural gas is allowed. You may not utilize logs, charcoal, wood, paper, vegetation, leaves or cardboard in addition to the propane or natural gas. The fireplace must be manufactured for this purpose and properly installed to prevent heat or flame from igniting nearby product.
- Yard Waste:** The burning of yard waste is not allowed. Yard waste can be disposed of at the Village Yard Waste site located at 8200 Ryan St.
- Controlled Burns:** For those who own at least five acres under single ownership and only involve parks, farms, wildlife sanctuaries, and cemeteries may burn agricultural materials, forestry debris or prairie areas. You must obtain a permit from the fire department to conduct this type of burning. This permit process shall not be construed to allow property owners to burn leaves, grass, trees, or landscape from their individual properties.
- Burning Ban:** The Fire Chief has the authority to cease all burning in the Village of Weston when climatic conditions are such to preclude burning. The Chief may also prohibit burning when noxious products of combustion affect neighboring properties.
- Recreational Fires:** It is the intent of the Village that citizens shall have the opportunity to have recreational fires at single-family and two-family dwellings. These fires must be in strict compliance with Village Code.
- Fire Pit:** Include both below-ground and a portable device intended to control outdoor wood fires.
- Recreational/Cooking Fires:** A small outdoor fire intended for recreation or cooking. No recreational fire may be started or allowed to burn unless such recreational fire is contained in a fire pit. Fires can be in a: fire pit no larger in

diameter than 3 feet, a cooking grill, an outdoor barbecue or an outdoor fireplace. Fires using charcoal briquettes, commercially prepared wood, clean dry wood, or gas are allowed between noon and midnight.

- Size of Fire Pit:** The diameter shall not be larger than three feet. The fire may not extend more than two feet above the pit. The pit shall be at least four inches in depth and must be surrounded by noncombustible material such as concrete block, rock or metal. A portable device shall be placed on a noncombustible surface.
- Type of Wood Allowed:** Only clean, dry wood, untreated and unpainted lumber is permitted to fuel a recreational fire.
- Distance from structures or lot line:** No recreational fire shall be closer than twenty-five feet from any building, structure, shed, garage, combustible fence or any combustible material, or ten feet from any lot line.
- Smoke/Embers/Wind Speed:** No recreational fire is allowed when wind direction or speed will cause smoke, embers, etc. to be carried toward any building or other combustible material. You may not burn if the wind speed exceeds seven miles per hour.
- Fire Suppression:** Adequate fire suppression equipment shall be immediately available to control or extinguish the recreational fires.
- Attended at all times:** All recreational fires shall be attended at all times by at least one person age eighteen or older from start to finish.
- Times Allowed:** Recreational fires are allowed any day of the week between 12:00PM (noon) and 12:00AM (midnight).
- Disposal of Ash:** No person shall deposit hot ashes, cinders, smoldering coals, or greasy or oily substances liable to spontaneous ignition into any wooden receptacle or place within ten feet of any combustible materials, except in metal or other noncombustible receptacle. The receptacle must be resting on noncombustible flooring.



## THINGS THAT ARE NOT ALLOWED:

(Village of Weston, Town of Weston, City of Schofield)

- No burning barrels
- Solid Fuel—Fired Outdoor Heating
- Devices in other than RR or AR zoned areas 94.127 (5)

## THINGS THAT MAY NOT BE BURNED:

(Village of Weston, Town of Weston, City of Schofield)

- Container board (corrugated cardboard)
  - Fiber board (like soda/cereal cartons)
  - Foam polystyrene (Styrofoam)
  - Glassy paper
  - HDPE High density polyethylene #2
  - LDPE Low density polyethylene #4
  - Newspaper
  - Office paper
  - Plastic resins labeled SPI #7
  - PETE Polyethylene terephthalate #1
  - PP Polypropylene #5
  - PS Polystyrene #6
  - PVC Polyvinyl chloride #3
  - Petroleum or petroleum like products or any brand of petroleum
- |              |            |             |
|--------------|------------|-------------|
| • Asphalt    | Creosote   | Fertilizers |
| • Fuel Oil   | Gasoline   | Glues       |
| • Grease     | Herbicides | Kerosene    |
| • Motor Oil  | Naphtha    | Paint       |
| • Pesticides | Tar        | Tar Paper   |
| • Tires      | Turpentine |             |
- All plastics
  - Oriented strand board
  - Plywood  
(Pressure treated lumber, clear, green, brown)
  - Yard Waste  
(Leaves, grass clippings, yard and garden debris, brush and tree limbs less than 6" in diameter)

**What can you do with this stuff?**  
 The Village and Town have a recycling program in place for the non yard debris, and a yard waste drop off site on Ryan Street. The Village also provides for a spring and fall yard waste pickup program and there are commercial companies that do haul this stuff away.

## Town of Weston:

- 🔥 **Cooking Fires:** Fires using charcoal briquettes, commercially prepared wood, clean dry wood, or gas are allowed any time, but must be under control and you must be using them to cook a substantial part of a meal. The fires can be in a fire pit no larger in diameter than 4", a cooking grill, an outdoor barbecue or an outdoor fire-place.
- 🔥 **Recreational Fires:** Fires using commercially prepared wood, or clean dry wood, are allowed from noon to midnight, on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays, but must be under control and out by midnight. The fires can be in a fire pit no larger in diameter than 4", a cooking grill, an outdoor barbecue or an outdoor fire-place.
- 🔥 **Burning Permits:** Burning permits are issued for the purpose of burning brush and debris from clearing land for the construction of a home or commercial structure, or clearing crop-lands for farming. They can be issued for up to three days in a row, no holidays or Sundays, from 6:00pm to midnight. If weather prevents burning, the permit will be reissued without charge. Burning permits will not be reissued without charge if the permittee is unable to burn for reason other than weather. The fire must be under constant observation and OUT by midnight. It is advised that the permittee contact neighbors in the area to inform them of the permit.



If a general burning ban is issued all burning permits are cancelled immediately. The permittee must call County Dispatch at (715) 261-1200 prior to setting the fire to inform them of where it is and that they have a permit. Permits are not issued to home owners or businesses who want to clean up an existing yard or junk.

If burning gets away you will be responsible for the costs of putting the fire out even if you have a permit.

## City of Schofield:

- 🔥 **Burning:** In general is allowed except for items which are deemed recyclable by the Recycling Ordinance. (Yard waste, leaves, pine needles, grass clippings, yard and garden debris, clean dry wood, branches, tree limbs, ect.)
- 🔥 **Cooking Fires:** Outdoor cooking over a fire contained in a device or structure designed for such use is allowed.
- 🔥 **Recreational Fires:** Fire pits encircled with nonflammable material, or commercially built and approved fire containers and located a minimum of 20 feet from any structure or 15 feet from the lot line. Maximum diameter shall be 42". Fires shall be extinguished by 10pm, Sunday through Thursday, and midnight, Fridays and Saturdays, or when left unattended. Fuel for pits shall consist of dry material only, and it shall not be ignited with flammable or combustible liquids.



South Area Fire Emergency and Response  
(715) 355-6763

Everest Metro Police Department (non-emergency)  
(715) 359-4202

City Of Schofield Fire Department  
(715) 359-3500