

Residents of Oronoko Township:

This is the time of year that we want to clean up our yards from this long winter we have had. With the coming of warm weather, I need to provide you specifics about the laws and ordinances that apply to open burning in our community.

1. In Oronoko Township, per State Law you may not burn leaves at any time. Trimming from trees and brush may be burned on the open ground by obtaining a permit from your fire department.
2. You may have a burn barrel in Oronoko Township. It must have  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch holes near the bottom for ventilation. In addition, burning must be below the top of the barrel and covered with a screen. Tree trimmings, brush, household paper and cardboard may be burned in the barrel.
3. Processed wood products, such as old 2 x4's, plywood, pallets or tires can not be burned any time in Michigan. Burning of any item containing plastic or garbage also is banned. This also includes materials at construction sites.
4. When we issue a burning permit, we start with your name, address and what you want to burn. We will also ask distance from buildings, woods or any other potential exposure. All burning must be done daytime and someone must be present at the site at all times. Plan ahead, to obtain a permit, you must call the station (473-3731) during normal business hours (M – F, 8 AM to 5 PM). Even with a permit, you must consider changes in weather and wind conditions before lighting a fire. Responsibility to do it safely always remains with you.

Remember, in all situations, you must not be a nuisance to you neighbor. In addition, you may be held legally responsible for any damage cause by a fire that gets out of control. Please remember your fire department, police department, and the State Department of Environmental Quality take our air quality very seriously. Together, we can protect our air quality, your rights and the rights of your neighbors while allowing you to improve your property.

Chief Stover