

Vergennes Township Zoning Ordinance – Burning Section

201.428 Open burning.

4.28.

- A. No open burning of flammable material is permitted within the township except when the ground is snow covered unless a burning permit is obtained from the City of Lowell Fire Department, which has fire control responsibility for the township. The permit must be obtained prior to each burning, except that for those engaged in agriculture or other activities that may require more than one such burning each year, a permit may be obtained annually, and the City of Lowell Fire Department shall be notified not later than the beginning of each planned burning under the annual permit.
- B. Regardless of the possession of such burning permit, no open burning is permitted within 50 feet of a building or at any time a high wind is blowing.
- C. Prior to such open burning, an adequate fire line shall be prepared around the area in which burning is to take place; and sufficient water, shovels, and manpower shall be present and remain at the site until the fire is completely extinguished.
- D. Any person who does not hold a burning permit when such permit is required, or who holds a burning permit and does not follow the terms of the permit, and allows a fire to escape and become an uncontrolled fire is, in addition to any penalties that may be prescribed under State statutes, liable for all expenses incurred by the Township in suppression of such fire and is also liable for all damage to property which may result.
- E. Exceptions. The provisions of this section shall not prevent:
 - 1. The burning of charcoal, wood or other accepted fuel for preparing of food in an approved container, fire proof ring or utensil while being used in a safe and sanitary manner.
 - 2. The use of approved gaseous or liquid fired "salamanders" commonly employed in conjunction with building and construction operations when used in accordance with accepted safety standards.
 - 3. Roofers, plumbers, tinnerns or other mechanics pursuing a business requiring the use of fire for the purpose of boiling tar, pitch or oil used in the regular course of an appropriate business or trade, and while being used in a safe manner.
 - 4. The burning of empty bags such as those used in agriculture to contain seed, fertilizer or for other agricultural usages, provided that such burning is carried out on tilled bare soil at least 50 feet from the nearest vegetation and is supervised until the fire is out.