

# SCHERTZ FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

## REQUIREMENTS FOR BONFIRE AND CONTROL BURN PERMITS

### **THIS IS NOT A PERMIT**

Permit required. No person shall kindle or maintain any bonfire or controlled burn or authorize any such fire to be kindled or maintained without a permit issued by the Fire Prevention Bureau. The permit holder shall be liable for any damage resulting to persons or property. No permit shall be issued except in cases where other means of disposition of material are not practical.

To obtain a permit for bonfires or open burning under current City Ordinance, all the following items will be required:

- Only dry, natural, on site vegetation will be allowed to be burned. No junk, trash, rubbish, or sawn lumber will be allowed in a bonfire or controlled burn.
- No person shall kindle or maintain any bonfire or open burning or authorize any such fire to be kindled or maintained on any private land unless:
  - The location of the fire must be more than 300 ft. from any structure **NOT** located on permit holder's property, and adequate provisions must be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 300ft. of such structure.
  - The location of the fire must be more than 100ft. from any structure located on permit holder's property, and adequate provisions must be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 100ft. of such structure.
- The location and conditions for open burning shall be in accordance with rules established by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and in effect at the time the permit is issued. Location and conditions shall be further restricted, as follows:
  - Forecasted wind speed of 15 mph or less
  - Open burning shall not be allowed in residential areas on lot sizes less than (3) three acres.
  - Open burning shall not be allowed on days subject to an "Air Quality Health Alert" or other air quality warnings
- Bonfires and controlled burns shall be constantly attended by a competent person until the fire is extinguished. That person shall have a garden hose connected to the water supply or other fire extinguishing equipment readily available for use. (i.e. heavy equipment, a water spraying device with a minimum of 50-gallon capacity.)
- The user **MUST** obtain permission from the Fire Department at **210-619-1300** of intent to burn prior to burning on each day that the burning will occur. The initiation of burning shall commence one hour after sunrise and shall be completed or ended prior to one hour before sunset. No hazard for rekindle shall exist.
- Permit holder must immediately notify the Fire Department (**Dial 9-1-1**) if fire becomes uncontrollable or other assistance is needed.

The authority to conduct outdoor burning under a burn permit does not exempt or excuse any person responsible from consequences, damages, or injuries resulting from the burning and does not exempt anyone from complying with all other applicable laws and regulations of government entities having jurisdiction, even though the burning is otherwise conducted in accordance with an approved permit.

**Failure for permit holder to keep a control burn under control through negligence, which activates an emergency response by Fire Department will require the permit holder to pay for the cost of the fire response in accordance to fees set forth in Exhibit-1 of Ordinance.**

