

# **TOWNSHIP OF BURLINGTON**

## **ORDINANCE**

**2024-OR-008**

### **ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BURLINGTON AMENDING CODE CHAPTER 275 "FIRE PREVENTION" ARTICLE III MUNICIPAL FIRE PREVENTION REGULATIONS TO ADD § 275-30 PROVIDING GUIDELINES FOR OUTDOOR FIRES AND § 275-31 VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES**

**WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Fire Prevention has requested that the Township Council adopt guidelines for outdoor fires to assure that the property owner, or tenant renting the property, who starts an outdoor fire, observe guidelines for the benefit of promoting the public safety.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED and ENACTED** by the Township Council of the Township of Burlington as follows:

**SECTION ONE.** Code Chapter § 275 is amended to add § 275-30 "Guidelines for outdoor fires" as follows:

**Guidelines for outdoor fires.** The property owner, or tenant renting the property, when starting an outdoor fire, must observe the following guidelines:

- A. Outdoor fires must be located at a distance of no less than ten (10) feet of any property line and ten (10) feet for any combustible structure, including, but not limited to, dwellings, garages, sheds, decks and fences.
- B. Outdoor fires utilized for cooking must be contained in a metal grill, or other enclosed structure, so that any flame remains contained within the metal grill or enclosed structure.
- C. Outdoor fires utilized for recreational purposes must be contained in a manufactured device and utilized strictly in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements, or in a noncombustible stone, brick, tile or metal fire pit with mesh safety/spark screen cover of no more than three (3) feet in diameter, each being designed for such purpose.
- D. Outdoor fires must be accompanied by a functioning fire extinguisher or garden hose connected to an unlimited water source to extinguish the fire.
- E. Fuel used for outdoor fires shall be limited to seasoned fire wood, natural gas or propane. Flammable/combustible liquids, garbage, rubber, plastics, yard waste, green wood, leaves, or soft wood, such as pine and cedar, may not be burned outdoors to prevent unnecessary smoke and odor, and to assure that the fire remains under control.
- F. Flames may not exceed two (2) feet at any time and, if smoke should travel to an adjacent property, the fire must be extinguished immediately.

- G. Residential outdoor fires must be supervised at all times by the property owner or tenant who started the fire through its extinguishment.
- H. The Fire Chief, Director of Public Safety, Fire Official, Code Enforcement Officer, or any of their designees, may require that a residential outdoor fire be extinguished if he/she determines that the outdoor fire constitutes a hazardous condition in violation of these regulations.
- I. The Fire Chief, or Fire Official, may prohibit all outdoor fires within the Township when the presence of an outdoor fire threatens the public health due to weather or other local conditions.

**SECTION TWO.** Code Chapter § 275 is amended to add § 275-31 "Violations and penalties" as follows:

**Violations and penalties.** A property owner, or tenant, who is found to be in violation of any of the regulations in Article III, shall upon conviction be subject to a minimum fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for a first offense, and for any subsequent violation be subject to the imposition of a penalty in accordance with the general penalty provisions in Code § 1-18.

This Ordinance was introduced at a meeting of the Township Council in the Township of Burlington held on February 13, 2024, and will be considered for final passage after a public hearing held at a Regular Meeting of the Township Council to be held on February 27, 2024, at the Township Municipal Building, Burlington Township, New Jersey at 7:00 p.m.

This will certify that the foregoing Ordinance was passed by a majority of the Burlington Township Council on February 27, 2024.

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Mary E. Field  
Municipal Clerk

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Carl M. Schoenborn  
President of Council