

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
Division of Fire Safety

CHAPTER 3
GENERAL PRECAUTIONS AGAINST FIRE
(For Adoption)

SECTION 301
GENERAL

301.1 Scope. The provisions of this chapter shall govern the occupancy and maintenance of all structures and premises for precautions against fire and the spread of fire.

301.1.1 The equipment, processes and operations of vehicle-wrecking yards, junk yards and waste material-handling plants and the storage of combustible or flammable waste, rubbish and other materials shall comply with this chapter and NFPA 230.

SECTION 302
DEFINITIONS

302.1 Definitions. The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this chapter and as used elsewhere in this code, have the meanings shown herein.

BONFIRE. An outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes. **HI-BOY.** A cart used to transport hot roofing materials on a roof.

OPEN BURNING. The burning of materials wherein products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber. Open burning does not include road flares, smudge pots and similar devices associated with safety or occupational uses typically considered open flames or recreational fires. For the purpose of this definition, a chamber shall be regarded as enclosed when, during the time combustion occurs, only apertures, ducts, stacks, flues or chimneys necessary to provide combustion air and permit the escape of exhaust gas are open.

POWERED INDUSTRIAL TRUCK. A forklift, tractor, platform lift truck or motorized hand truck powered by an electrical motor or internal combustion engine. Powered industrial trucks do not include farm vehicles or automotive vehicles for highway use.

RECREATIONAL FIRE. An outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, barbeque grill or barbeque pit and has a total fuel area of 3 feet (914 mm) or less in diameter and 2 feet (610 mm) or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.

SECTION 303
ASPHALT KETTLES

303.1 Transporting. Asphalt (tar) kettles shall not be transported over any highway, road or street when the heat source for the kettle is operating.

Exception: Asphalt (tar) kettles in the process of patching road surfaces.

303.2 Location. Asphalt (tar) kettles shall not be located within 20 feet (6096 mm) of any combustible material, combustible building surface or any building opening and within a controlled area identified by the use of traffic cones, barriers or other approved means. Asphalt (tar) kettles and pots shall not be utilized inside or on the roof of a building or structure. Roofing kettles and operating asphalt (tar) kettles shall not block means of egress, gates, roadways or entrances.

303.3 Location of fuel containers. Fuel containers shall be located at least 10 feet (3048 mm) from the burner.

Exception: Containers properly insulated from heat or flame are allowed to be within 2 feet (610 mm) of the burner.

303.4 Attendant. An operating kettle shall be attended by a minimum of one employee knowledgeable of the operations and hazards. The employee shall be within 100 feet (30,480 mm) of the kettle and have the kettle within sight. Ladders or similar obstacles shall not form a part of the route between the attendant and the kettle.

303.5 Fire extinguishers. There shall be a portable fire extinguisher complying with Section 906 and with a minimum 40-B:C rating within 25 feet (7620 mm) of each asphalt (tar) kettle during the period such kettle is being utilized. Additionally, there shall be one portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 3-Az40- B:C rating on the roof being covered.

303.6 Lids. Asphalt (tar) kettles shall be equipped with tight-fitting lids.

303.7 Hi-boys. Hi-boys shall be constructed of noncombustible materials. Hi- boys shall be limited to a capacity of 55 gallons (208 L). Fuel sources or heating elements shall not be allowed as part of a hi~boy.

303.8 Roofing kettles. Roofing kettles shall be constructed of noncombustible materials.

303.9 Fuel containers under air pressure. Fuel containers that operate under air pressure shall not exceed 20 gallons (76 L) in capacity and shall be approved.

SECTION 304 COMBUSTIBLE WASTE MATERIAL

304.1 Waste accumulation prohibited. Combustible waste material creating a fire hazard shall not be allowed to accumulate in buildings or structures or upon premises.

304.1.1 Waste material. Accumulations of wastepaper, wood, hay, straw, weeds, litter or combustible or flammable waste or rubbish of any type shall not be permitted to remain on a roof or in any court, yard, vacant lot, alley, parking lot, open space, or beneath a grandstand, bleacher, pier, wharf, manufactured home, recreational vehicle or other similar structure.

304.1.2 Vegetation. Adequate space shall be maintained around the perimeter of developments, structures or other combustible objects to provide defensible space against encroaching wildland fires or from fires escaping from these objects to the surroundings. Weeds, grass, vines or other growth that is capable of being ignited and endangering property, shall be cut down and removed by the owner or occupant of the premises. Vegetation clearance requirements in lands regulated by the NJ Pinelands Commission shall conform to the requirements of the Pinelands Management Plan. Fire hazard mitigation standards.

304.1.3 Space underneath seats. Spaces underneath grandstand and bleacher seats shall be kept free from combustible and flammable materials. Except where enclosed in not less than 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction in accordance with the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code, spaces underneath grandstand and bleacher seats shall not be occupied or utilized for purposes other than means of egress.

304.2 Storage. Storage of combustible rubbish shall not produce conditions that will create a nuisance or a hazard to the public health, safety or welfare.

304.3 Containers. Combustible rubbish, and waste material kept within a structure shall be stored in accordance with Sections 304.3.1 through 304.3.3.

304.3.1 Spontaneous ignition. Materials susceptible to spontaneous ignition, such as oily rags, shall be stored in a listed disposal container. Contents of such containers shall be removed and disposed of daily.

304.3.2 Capacity exceeding 5.33 cubic feet. Containers with a capacity exceeding 5.33 cubic feet (40 gallons) (0.15 m³) shall be provided with lids. Containers and lids constructed of noncombustible materials or approved combustible materials.

304.3.3 Capacity exceeding 1.5 cubic yards. Dumpsters and containers with an individual capacity of 1.5 cubic yards [40.5 cubic feet (1.15 m³)] or more shall not be stored in buildings or placed within 5 feet (1524 mm) of combustible walls, openings or combustible roof eave lines.

Exceptions:

1. Dumpsters or containers in areas protected by an approved automatic sprinkler system installed throughout in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, 903.3.1.2 or 903.3.1.3.
2. Storage in a structure shall not be prohibited where the structure is of Type I or "A" construction, located not less than 10 feet (3048 mm) from other buildings and used exclusively for dumpster or container storage.

304.4 Waste material plants. Waste material plants shall also comply with this section.

304.4.1 Fire access. Approved aisles, driveways and uniform passageways shall be provided to permit access for fire-fighting operations, including areas where stripped vehicle bodies are stored.

304.4.2 Picking rooms. Picking rooms shall be provided with exhaust systems of sufficient capacity to remove dust and lint.

304.4.3 Burning operations. The burning of wrecked or discarded vehicles, or any parts thereof, or any junk or waste materials shall be prohibited.

SECTION 305 IGNITION SOURCES

305.1 Clearance from ignition sources. Clearance between ignition sources, such as luminaries, heaters, flame-producing devices and combustible materials, shall be maintained in an approved manner.

305.2 Hot ashes and spontaneous ignition sources. Hot ashes, cinders, smoldering coals or greasy or oily materials subject to spontaneous ignition shall not be deposited in a combustible receptacle, within 10 feet (3048 mm) of other combustible material including combustible walls and partitions or within 2 feet (610 mm) of openings to buildings.

Exception: The minimum required separation distance to other combustible materials shall be 2 feet (610 mm) where the material is deposited in a covered, noncombustible receptacle placed on a noncombustible floor, ground surface or stand.

305.3 Open-flame warning devices. Open—flame warning devices shall not be used along an excavation, road, or any place where the dislodgment of such device might permit the device to roll, fall or slide on to any area or land containing combustible material.

305.4 Deliberate or negligent burning. It shall be unlawful to deliberately or through negligence set fire to or cause the burning of combustible material in such a manner as to endanger the safety of persons or property.

SECTION 306 MOTION PICTURE PROJECTION ROOMS AND FILM

306.1 Motion picture projection rooms. Electric arc, xenon or other light source projection equipment which develops hazardous gases, dust or radiation and the projection of ribbon—type cellulose nitrate film, regardless of the light source used in projection, shall be operated within a motion picture projection room complying with construction code in effect at the time of construction or alteration.

306.2 Cellulose nitrate film storage. Storage of cellulose nitrate film shall be in accordance with NFPA 40.

SECTION 307 OPEN BURNING AND RECREATIONAL FIRES

307.1 General. A person shall not kindle or maintain or authorize to be kindled or maintained any open burning unless conducted and approved in accordance with this section.

307.1.1 Prohibited open burning. Open burning that is offensive or objectionable because of smoke emissions or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited.

Forest Fire Service. In districts for which Forest Fire Wardens have been appointed in accordance with the General Forest Fire Act (NJ.S.A. 1329-44.] et seq.), any fire within, or adjacent to, any forest which has the potential to cause a wildfire is prohibited by this subchapter, without first obtaining a permit from the State Forest Fire Service in the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

307.2 Permit required. Allowable burning. Open burning shall be allowed without prior notification to the fire official for recreational fires, highway safety flares, smudge pots and similar Occupational needs.

307.2.1 Approval required. Open burning shall be allowed after obtaining a permit from the fire official for a bonfire. All permits shall be requested by and issued to the owner of the land upon which the bonfire is to be kindled.

307.2.1.1 Application: Applications for open burning shall be submitted in writing at least ten days before the fire is set and shall be in such form and contain such information as required by the fire official. Such applications shall contain, as a minimum, information regarding the purpose of the proposed burning, the nature and quantities of material to be burned, the date when such burning will take place, the location of the burning site and the on-site fire—extinguishing equipment to be provided.

307.2.1.2 Agricultural burning permitted: The burning of herbaceous or infested plant life, the burning of orchard prunings and cuttings, prescribed burnings and the clearing of agricultural land by burning are prohibited by this subchapter, unless in accordance with a permit issued under the provisions of N.J.A.C. 7:27-2, administered by the State Forest Fire Service in the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

307.2.2 Waste disposal. Open burning shall not be utilized for waste disposal purposes, shall be of the minimum size for the intended purpose, and the fuel shall be chosen to minimize the generation and emission of air contaminants.

307.3 Extinguishment authority. The fire code official is authorized to order the extinguishment by the permit holder, another person responsible or the fire department of open burning that creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation.

307.4 Location. The location for open burning shall not be less than 50 feet (15,240 mm) from any structure, and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 50 feet (15 240 mm) of any structure.

Exceptions:

1. Fires in approved containers that are not less than 15 feet (4572 mm) from a structure.
2. The minimum required distance from a structure shall be 25 feet (7620 mm) where the pile size is 3 feet (914 mm) or less in diameter and 2 feet (610 mm) or less in height.

307.4.1 Bonfires. A bonfire shall not be conducted within 50 feet (15 240 mm) of a structure or combustible material unless the fire is contained in a barbecue pit. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 50 feet (15 240 mm) of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

307.4.1.1 Bonfire size and duration. A bonfire shall not be more than 5 feet (1524 mm) by 5 feet (1524 mm) by 5 feet (1524 mm) in dimension and shall not burn longer than 3 hours. The maximum size and duration of a bonfire shall not be increased by the fire official unless it is determined that fire safety requirements of the situation and the desirable duration of burn warrant the increase.

307.4.1.2 Material. Fuel for a bonfire shall consist only of seasoned dry firewood and shall be ignited with a small quantity of paper. The fire shall not be utilized for waste disposal purposes, and the fuel shall be chosen to minimize the generation of air contaminants.

307.4.2 Recreational fires. Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet (7620 mm) of a structure or combustible material. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet (7620 mm) of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition. Fires in approved containers shall be permitted, provided that such fires are not less than 15 feet (4572mm) from any structure.

307.5 Attendance. Open burning, bonfires or recreational fires shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher complying with Section 906 with a minimum 4-A rating or other approved on-site fire-extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck, shall be available for immediate utilization.

SECTION 308 OPEN FLAMES

308.1 General. This section shall control open flames, fire and burning on all premises.

308.2 Where prohibited. A person shall not take or utilize an open flame or light in a structure, vessel, boat or other place where highly flammable, combustible or explosive material is utilized or stored. Lighting appliances shall be well-secured in a glass globe and wire mesh cage or a similar approved device.

308.2.1 Throwing or placing sources of ignition. No person shall throw or place, or cause to be thrown or placed, a lighted match, cigar, cigarette, matches, or other flaming or glowing substance or object on any surface or article where it can cause an unwanted fire.

308.3 Open flame. A person shall not utilize or allow to be utilized, an open flame in connection with a public meeting or gathering for purposes of deliberation, worship, entertainment, amusement, instruction, education, recreation, awaiting transportation or similar purpose in Group A or E occupancies without first obtaining approval of the fire official.

308.3.1 Open-flame cooking devices and outdoor fireplaces. Charcoal burners, other open-flame cooking devices and outdoor fireplaces shall not be operated or stored on combustible balconies or decks or within 5 feet of combustible construction.

Exceptions:

1. Detached one- and two-family dwellings.
2. Where buildings, balconies and decks are protected by an automatic sprinkler system.

308.3.1.1 Liquefied-petroleum-gas-fueled cooking devices. Portable LP-gas cooking equipment such as barbecue grills and outdoor fireplaces shall not be stored or used:

1. On any porch, balcony or any other portion of a building;
2. Within any room or space of a building;
3. Within five feet of any combustible exterior wall;
4. Within five feet, vertically or horizontally, of an opening in any wall; or
5. Under any building overhang.

Exception: Detached one- and two-family dwellings.

308.3.2 Open-flame decorative devices. Open-flame decorative devices shall comply with all of the following restrictions:

1. Class I and Class II liquids and LP-gas shall not be used.
2. Liquid— or solid-fueled lighting devices containing more than 8 ounces (237 ml) of fuel must self-extinguish and not leak fuel at a rate of more than 0.25 teaspoon per minute (1.26 ml per minute) if tipped over.
3. The device or holder shall be constructed to prevent the spillage of liquid fuel or wax at the rate of more than 0.25 teaspoon per minute (1.26 ml per minute) when the device or holder is not in an upright position.
4. The device or holder shall be designed so that it will return to the upright position after being tilted to an angle of 45 degrees from vertical.

Exception: Devices that self-extinguish if tipped over and do not spill fuel or wax at the rate of more than 0.25 teaspoon per minute (1.26 ml per minute) if tipped over.

5. The flame shall be enclosed except where openings on the side are not more than 0.375 inch (9.5 mm) diameter or where openings are on the top and the distance to the top is such that a piece of tissue paper placed on the top will not ignite in 10 seconds.

6. Chimneys shall be made of noncombustible materials and securely attached to the open-flame device.

Exception: A chimney is not required to be attached to any open-flame device that will self-extinguish if the device is tipped over.

7. Fuel canisters shall be safely sealed for storage. 8. Storage and handling of combustible liquids shall be in accordance with Chapter 34.

9. Shades, where used, shall be made of noncombustible materials and securely attached to the open-flame device holder or chimney.

10. Candelabras with flame-lighted candles shall be securely fastened in place to prevent overturning, and shall be located away from occupants using the area and away from possible contact with drapes, curtains or other combustibles.

308.3.3 Location near combustibles. Open flames such as from candles, lanterns, kerosene heaters, and gas-fired heaters shall not be located on or near decorative material or similar combustible materials.

308.3.4 Aisles and exits. Candles shall be prohibited in areas where occupants stand, or in an aisle or exit.

308.3.5 Deleted

308.3.6 Theatrical performances. Where approved, open-flame devices used in conjunction with theatrical performances are allowed to be used when adequate safety pre-cautions have been taken in accordance with NFPA 160.

308.3.7 Group A occupancies. Open-flame devices shall not be used in a Group A occupancy.

Exceptions:

1. Open-flame devices are allowed to be used in the following situations, provided approved precautions are taken to prevent ignition of a combustible material or injury to occupants:

1.1. Where necessary for ceremonial or religious purposes.

1.2. On stages and platforms as a necessary part of a performance in accordance with Section 308.3.6.

1.3. Where candles on tables are securely supported on substantial noncombustible bases and the candle flames are protected.

2. Heat-producing equipment complying with the Uniform Construction Code.

3. Gas lights are allowed to be used provided adequate precautions satisfactory to the fire code official are taken to prevent ignition of combustible materials.

308.3.8 Group R-2 dormitories. Candles, incense and similar open-flame-producing items shall not be allowed in sleeping units in Group R-2 dormitory occupancies.

308.4 Torches for removing paint. Persons utilizing a torch or other flame-producing device for removing paint from a structure or for sealing membrane roofs shall provide a minimum of one portable fire extinguisher complying with Section 906 and with a minimum 4-A rating, two portable fire extinguishers, each with a minimum 2-A rating, or a water hose connected to the water supply on the premises where such burning is done. The person doing the burning shall remain on the premises 1 hour

after the torch or flame-producing device is utilized. The use of open flame burning or the use of high temperature (in excess of 1000 degrees Fahrenheit) heat guns on painted surfaces in buildings of Use Group R that were constructed before 1978, Use Group E and Use Group I-2 buildings used as child care facilities shall be prohibited unless the painted surfaces has been tested and found to be free of lead-based paint.

308.4.1 Permit. A permit shall be secured from the fire code official prior to the utilization of a torch or flame-producing device to remove paint to seal membrane roofs. or for any similar use in or around any building. structure or combustible material.

308.5 Open-flame devices. Torches and other devices. machines or processes liable to start or cause fire shall not be operated or used in or upon hazardous fire areas. unless approved by the fire official.

Exception: Use within inhabited premises or designated campsites which are a minimum of 30 feet (9144 mm) from grass—, grain-, brush- or forest-covered areas.

308.5.1 Signals and markers. Flame-employing devices. such as lanterns or kerosene road flares. shall not be operated or used as a signal or marker in or upon hazardous fire areas.

Exception: The proper use of fuses at the scenes of emergencies or as required by standard railroad operating procedures.

308.5.2 Portable fueled open-flame devices. Portable open-flame devices fueled by flammable or combustible gases or liquids shall be enclosed or installed in such a manner as to prevent the flame from contacting combustible material.

Exceptions:

1. LP-gas-fueled devices used an- sweating pipe joints or removing paint in accordance with Chapter 38. 7
2. Cutting and welding operations in accordance with Chapter 26.
3. Torches. or flame-producing devices in accordance with Section 308.4.
4. Candles and open-flame decorative devices in accordance with Section 308.3.

308.6 Flaming food and beverage preparation. The preparation of flaming foods or beverages in places of assembly and drinking or dining establishments shall be in accordance with Sections 3086.1 through 308.65.

308.6.1 Dispensing. Flammable or combustible liquids used in the preparation of flaming foods or beverages shall be dispensed from one of the following:

1. A 1-ounce (29.6 ml) container: or
2. A container not exceeding 1—quart (946.5 ml) capacity with a controlled pouring device that will limit the flow to a 1-ounce (29.6 ml) serving.

308.6.2 Containers not in use. Containers shall be secured to prevent spillage when not in use.

308.6.3 Serving of flaming food. The serving of flaming foods or beverages shall be done in a safe manner and shall not create high flames. The pouring. ladling or spooning of liquids is restricted to a maximum height of 8 inches (203 mm) above the receiving receptacle.

308.6.4 Location. Flaming foods or beverages shall be pre-pared only in the immediate vicinity of the table being serviced. They shall not be transported or carried while burning.

308.6.5 Fire protection. The person preparing the flaming foods or beverages shall have a wet cloth towel immediately available for use in smothering the flames in the event of an emergency.