



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY REMINDS OF OPEN BURNING REGULATIONS & SAFETY FOR MARION COUNTY RESIDENTS

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR, LEARN BEFORE YOU BURN

INDIANAPOLIS – The Department of Business and Neighborhood Services (BNS) is reminding citizens that “open burning,” which involves the burning of anything outside, can lead to health and environmental risks if done incorrectly.

When the air is stagnant, open burning creates smoke, which may cause an odor nuisance to nearby neighbors. Furthermore, open burning adversely affects the health-based air quality standards for Marion County as set by the U.S. EPA under the Clean Air Act, which means the quality of air we breathe and share becomes less than ideal and potentially harmful over time.

It has been determined that even small camp fires burning clean wood can release toxic chemicals in to the air. The burning of unclean materials presents even more hazards. Therefore, before lighting that fire, remember to protect yourself, your neighbors and your community by knowing what is appropriate to burn and how. In addition to residential properties, commercial properties (i.e. businesses) are not allowed to open burn materials for disposal or any other reason.

Residents of Marion County are allowed to burn only dried branches, limbs and twigs that originate from their property for disposal if they follow these requirements (Indy.Gov/BNS):

- Use a non-combustible container with a ventilated mesh covering with openings no greater than one-fourth inch
- Place container at least 15 feet from any structure, trees or other object that may catch fire
- Maintain a means to extinguish the fire at all times while burning
- Burn preferably between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.
- Attend to the fire at all times
- Prevent nuisance activity

Permitted open burning types include:

- Ceremonial bonfires conducted by established groups (e.g. schools, churches or other recognized organizations)
- Campfires, patio fire pits or chiminea
- Cooking fires such as barbecue grills
- Personal comfort fires

Materials illegal to burn at any time anywhere in Marion County are as follows (a complete list of prohibited materials can be found [online](#)):

- Household garbage/trash
- Furniture/mattresses
- Animal carcasses
- Leaves
- Tires

Residents wanting to discard leaves are encouraged to place leaves in large plastic yard waste bags for collection. The Indianapolis Department of Public Works (DPW) leaf collection season began Monday, November 6, and will run until Friday, December 1. Residents can dispose of up to 40 bags of leaves per household each week on regular trash pickup days during the 4-week leaf collection season. Place all leaf bags outside by 7 a.m. on regular trash days and at least 3 feet away from trash carts so trucks can access trash containers. For more information, visit www.indy.gov/dpw.

If you observe burning that does not meet the above criteria, please report the violation to the [Mayor's Action Center](#) via the [RequestIndy](#) application on your smart phone/device or by dialing 317-327-4622 (4-MAC).

For additional information about the Department of Business and Neighborhood Services, please visit www.indy.gov/bns.

The mission of the Department of Business and Neighborhood Services (BNS) is to protect and improve the quality of life of persons and animals in the City of Indianapolis.

