

**CITY OF WAUSAU
RECREATIONAL FIRE PERMIT APPLICATION**

LICENSING YEAR _____

[PLEASE PRINT]

Date of Application _____/_____/_____

Applicant's Name: _____

Applicant's Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Number(s): _____

Applicant's Date of Birth: _____

Property Address of Fire Pit: _____

I certify that I am the property owner for the above named property for which I am making application for a recreational burn permit and I also certify that all of the above information is accurate and complete. I hold the City of Wausau harmless from any damages caused by my recreational fire. I have received a copy of the Wausau Municipal Code, Section 17.24.020 and understand and agree to comply with all provisions of that code. In addition to any other penalties authorized by law, this permit may be revoked without refund for noncompliance with this code.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date Signed: _____

**Complete this application
Mail along with the \$30 permit fee to:** **City Clerk
407 Grant Street
Wausau WI 54403**

Your permit will be mailed to you at the address provided above. If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Clerk's staff at (715) 261-6620.

(Term: begins Apr 1 or on date of purchase if after Apr 1 in the licensing year of purchase and ends Mar 31, five years later)

17.24.020 Open fire and burning allowed by permit. The fire chief shall be authorized to issue permits for open fires and burning for the following special purposes:

(a) Controlled burning of agricultural materials, forestry debris or prairie areas on parks, farms, wildlife sanctuaries, and cemeteries; provided such burns are issued a current permit by the fire department, the smoke and products of combustion do not create a hazard to nearby streets or a noxious atmosphere for neighbors, the burns are attended by personnel who have readily available fire fighting equipment, and the fire chief has not declared a no burn period due to dry conditions or other unfavorable weather. Such burns shall be restricted to properties of at least five acres under single ownership, and this permit process shall not be construed to allow property owners to burn leaves, grass, trees or landscape debris from their individual properties.

(b) Recreational fires and permits.

(1) Intent. It is the intent of the city that citizens shall have the opportunity to have recreational fires at single-family and two-family dwellings provided that such fires are in strict compliance with restrictions relating to recreational fires. It is further the intent of the city that the police department and fire department shall strictly enforce these restrictions so as to insure that such fires do not compromise safety nor annoy neighbors. Such enforcement shall require an investigation into any complaint and an independent determination by either the police department or the fire department as to whether a particular recreational fire is in compliance with these regulations.

(2) Definitions. The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this section shall have the meaning ascribed to them in this subsection, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

“Fire pit” includes both a below-ground pit and a portable device intended to contain and control outdoor wood fires.

A “recreational fire” is a small, outdoor fire intended for recreation or cooking.

(3) No recreational fire may be started or allowed to continue burning unless such recreational fire is contained in a fire pit.

(4) All recreational fires shall not have a diameter larger than three feet nor may the fire extend more than two feet above the fire pit. All below-ground fire pits shall be at least four inches in depth and shall be surrounded on the outside, above ground, by a noncombustible material such as concrete block,

rock or metal. A portable device shall be placed upon a noncombustible surface and secured.

(5) Portable fire pits, such as devices commercially designed and intended to control and contain outdoor wood fires, may be used in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications, and these regulations, and must be based upon a noncombustible surface at ground level.

(6) Only clean, dry wood or untreated and unpainted lumber is permitted to fuel a recreational fire. If anything else is used, the fire department may respond and extinguish the fire and a citation may be issued.

(7) No recreational fire shall be closer than twenty-five feet from any building, structure, shed, garage, combustible fence or any combustible material or ten feet from any lot line.

(8) No recreational fire shall be started or allowed to continue burning when the wind direction or wind speed will cause smoke, embers, or other burning materials to be carried by the wind toward any building or other combustible materials, nor anytime when the wind speed exceeds seven miles per hour. Smoke from any recreational fire shall not create a nuisance for neighboring property owners. The fire shall be completely extinguished immediately upon the complaint of any smoke nuisance. The police department and the fire department shall strictly enforce this section so as to comply with the intent of subsection (b)(1).

(9) Adequate fire suppression equipment shall be immediately available to control or extinguish the recreational fire.

(10) All recreational fires shall be attended at all times by at least one responsible person of age eighteen or older from the ignition of the fire until the fire is completely extinguished.

(11) The property owner and/or person who have started any recreational fire shall hold the city harmless from any and all damages caused by a recreational fire.

(12) A person utilizing or maintaining an outdoor fire shall be responsible for all suppression costs and any other liability resulting from damage caused by the fire.

(13) Any property owner who wishes to have a recreational fire must obtain a permit from the city clerk. The permit shall contain the name and address of the location where the portable fire pit is to be used. Such permit is not transferable to any other person nor any other location. Such a permit shall issue upon a showing that there will be compliance with all applicable laws and ordinances.

(14) The permit specified in subsection (b)(13) of this section shall require a fee as provided in Section 3.40.010(a) for a term of five years to be paid to and collected by the clerk/finance department. A copy of section 17.24.020 shall be provided to the permittee by the city clerk's office along with the permit.

(15) No recreational fire shall be started or allowed to continue unless the permit can be produced and shown to anyone who requests to see it.

(16) No recreational fire may be started or allowed to continue between 12 a.m. and 12 p.m. Any such fire is presumed unreasonable and must be extinguished upon demand.

(17) The city clerk's office shall send to any permittee a copy of any subsequent amendments to this section. Any such amendments may be sent by regular mail to any permittee.

(c) Use of wood-fired apparatuses by businesses, commercial establishments, and organizations or if used in conjunction with community events.

(d) The fire chief or any authorized officer, agent, employee or representative of the city of Wausau who presents credentials may inspect any property for the purpose of ascertaining compliance with the provisions of this ordinance. Note: If this owner or occupant of the premises denies access to the property for this purpose, a special inspection warrant may be obtained in accordance with Sections 66.0119 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

(e) The penalty for violation of any portion of this ordinance shall be a forfeiture in the deposit amount of two hundred fifty dollars plus the cost of prosecution and may result in the permanent revocation of the permit. Penalties are doubled for second and subsequent offenses.