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Open Fire and Burning Restrictions

Discussion: Amendment to B.M.C. Chapter 8

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – June 14, 2022

City Staff Representative: Paul Southard, Chief of Police

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Strategic Focus Area

Safe, Active, Engaged Community



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Why Amend Chapter 8?



Source: U.S. Army

- December 2021 Marshall Fire showed the high risk of fire danger in communities along the Front Range
- Extreme weather conditions, including periods of high winds, contribute to fire risk
- To curb the probability of such fires

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Key Definition: *Open fire or open burning*

- Campfires
- Warming fires
- Lighting of fused explosives
- Fireworks
- Lighting of model rockets
- Burning of fence lines or rows
- Burning of grasslands
- Burning of fields
- Burning of farmland/rangeland/wildland
- Burning of trash/debris

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Open fire or open burning definition exclusions:

- (1) fires in liquid-fueled or gas fueled stoves, grill, fireplaces;
- (2) fires in wood-burning fireplaces contained within buildings;
- (3) fires in charcoal grills at private residences;
- (4) commercial, professional, or municipal fireworks displays; and
- (5) prescribed or controlled burns with specific written approval from the Fire Code Official.

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Authority to Declare Restrictions

The City Manager, in consultation with the Fire Marshall of the Brighton Fire Rescue District, may declare stage 1 or stage 2 fire restrictions.



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Stage 1 Restrictions

No fire or campfire.

- Exemptions:
 - (1) a valid permit issued by the Fire Code Official;
 - (2) the performance of an official duty by a political subdivision or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force;
 - (3) stoves, indoor fireplaces, grills at private residences, or ornamental fire pits;
 - (4) fire within a constructed grate at a developed campground.

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Stage 2 Restrictions

Prohibit open burning.

Exceptions:

- Gas fueled stoves, grills, fireplaces
- Fires in wood-burning fireplace inside a building
- Fire in charcoal grill at family residences
- Commercial fireworks displays



Source: The Denver Post

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Enforcement

- Violation of ordinance is a misdemeanor.
- Ordinance is enforceable by the Police Department and the Fire Code Official.

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Options for City Council

Brighton City Council has the following options in this matter:

- ☐ Approve the Ordinance as presented
- ☐ Amend or modify
- ☐ Deny the Ordinance

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