



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



Strategic Focus Area

Safe, Active, Engaged Community





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



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



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.



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.





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



Enforcement

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



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