

# Fires and Burn Ordinance - 56

This ordinance is intended to promote public health, safety and welfare and the safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Norvell Township, Michigan by regulating the air pollution and fire hazards of open burning and outdoor burning.

THE TOWNSHIP OF NORVELL, JACKSON COUNTY, MICHIGAN, ORDAINS:

## Section 1: Applicability

- A. This ordinance applies to all outdoor buildings and open burning within Norvell Township, Michigan
- B. The ordinance does not apply to grilling or cooking of food using charcoal, clean wood, propane or natural gas in cooking and grilling appliances.
- C. This Ordinance does not apply to burning for the purpose of generating heat in a stove, furnace, fireplace or other heating device within a building used for human or animal habitation.
- D. This Ordinance does not apply to the use of propane, acetylene, natural gas, gasoline or kerosene in a device intended for heating, construction or maintenance activities.

## Section 2: Fires and Burning

- A. The incineration of garbage and other items including such items as roof shingles, rubber, plastic, and other petroleum-based products shall not be permitted.
- B. Incineration of refuse, leaves, paper or wood, shall be permitted if done in accordance with the following rules:
  - i. Except as otherwise permitted in this ordinance, the incineration of refuse, leaves, paper or wood, shall be done in a container constructed as to prevent the dispersal of sparks and burning materials to neighboring or adjacent buildings or premises. Use of a burn cover, grate or similar to protect from flying ash/embers shall be utilized.
  - ii. Burning leaves, brush fires, or fire for the purpose of clearing lands, outside of a container, shall be permitted only upon the issuance of a permit. Permits for fires of this type shall be obtained from the Fire Department serving that geographic area of the township.
  - iii. The incineration of refuse, leaves, paper or wood shall not be done prior to 8:00 a.m., and shall not be continued after 8:00 p.m. or sunset, whichever comes first; on any day (excluding campfires).
- C. Campfires shall be permitted provided they take place in pits constructed to be no less than one (1) foot deep and no larger than three (3) feet in diameter or contained in a solid fire-proof structure at ground level.
- D. All allowed burning (excluding permanent or portable outdoor grills) shall not be done within twenty (20) feet of an existing building, or within ten (10) feet of a side or rear lot line.
- E. No burning shall be done unless under the supervision of an adult. No burning of any kind shall be left unattended.
- F. No burning shall be done at any time or place when wind conditions will create or be apt to create a nuisance to anyone or the property of anyone in the vicinity thereof or be a danger to the property of any person in the vicinity thereof (Includes local, county, state wind advisories).
- G. No burning shall be done where its maximum size is not controllable by one adult.

**Section 3: Enforcement and Penalties**

This Ordinance shall be enforced in accordance with the Norvell Township Municipal Civil Infractions Ordinance (Ordinance No. 54).

**Section 4: Repeal**

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed, provided that this Ordinance shall not be construed to repeal any provision of the Zoning Ordinance or to supersede the Right To Farm Act.

**Section 5: Effective Date and Adoption**

This ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after its publication as required by law.

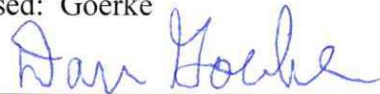
**CERTIFICATE OF TOWNSHIP CLERK**

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of an Ordinance duly adopted by the Township Board of Norvell, Jackson County, Michigan, at a meeting held on Wednesday, March 12, 2025.

I hereby further certify that the following Township Board Members were present at the meeting: Sutherland, Sauers, Francis, & Haystead and the following Township Board members were absent: None. Excused: Goerke

I further certify that Member Sauers moved for the adoption of the Ordinance, and that motion was supported by Member Haystead.

I further certify that the following Norvell Township Board Members voted for the adoption of the Ordinance: Sutherland, Sauers, Francis, & Haystead and that the following Norvell Township Board members voted against adoption of the Ordinance: None. Excused: Goerke



\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Goerke,  
Norvell Township Clerk

**CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION**

I, the undersigned Township Clerk of the Township of Norvell, do hereby certify that on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, a Summary of the Ordinance adopted was duly published in a newspaper having general circulation within the Township.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Goerke,  
Norvell Township Clerk

Adopted: March 12, 2025  
Published: March 25, 2025  
Effective: April 23, 2025