

**THE TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
ORDINANCE NO. 87**

REGARDING OPEN FIRES

Adopted: November 9, 2005

Amended: February 5, 2014

WHEREAS, the Town of West Greenwich, desires to amend the Ordinances and regulate open fires kindled in the town-

IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of West Greenwich, Rhode Island, that the following Ordinance be added as follows:

1. No person shall kindle or maintain, or authorize to be kindled or maintained, any outdoor fires including, but not limited to:
 - (i) bonfires;
 - (ii) outdoor fires maintained in a barrel or other improper burning receptacle;
 - (iii) outdoor fires not contained in a fireplace;
 - (iv) outdoor fires consisting of the burning of trash, refuse, treated wood or lumber, or any other substance the burning of which may cause the emission of noxious or offensive gases, odors, and/or fumes;
 - (v) outdoor fires including, but not limited to, the burning of any refuse or decaying animal, fish, or vegetable substances, or any waste materials or firewood or substances of any kind in a manner that the burning is a nuisance to any person or persons owning or occupying any adjoining or neighboring land. Odors and/or smoke in any neighboring property owner's home constitutes a nuisance for purposes of this ordinance.

2. Outdoor fires may be kindled and maintained for the following uses:
 - (i) campfires;
 - (ii) the cooking of food on barbeques, fireplaces, or grills;
 - (iii) the burning of brush and/or leaves when permitted by the Fire Chief.
3. *Campfires*: at least one (1) person must remain present at all times while a campfire is burning, beginning from the ignition of the fire and extending until the fire is fully extinguished. A fire is considered fully extinguished when all flames, sparks, and embers have been completely extinguished.
4. *Definitions*:
 - (i). *bonfire*: any outdoor fire whose flames reach five (5) feet or higher measured from the ground to the highest flame.
 - (ii) *campfire*: any outdoor fire fully contained in a fireplace, and consisting of the burning of untreated wood and branches.
 - (iii) *fireplace*: a structure built for the containment of an outdoor fire, and consisting of a pit, a threshold surrounding the pit, and a screen used to either cover or surround the fire so as to prevent the escape of any errant sparks from the fire.
5. *Violations*: Anyone conducting open burning in violation of this ordinance shall be subject to penalty in accordance with the following schedule:
 - (i) First offense: written warning
 - (ii) Second offense: \$50.00
 - (iii) Each subsequent offense within a twelve (12) month period: \$100.00 fine

This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.