- a. When there is a wind speed of at least five miles per hour, but no greater than 10 miles per hour (or greater as established by the relevant FPD).
- b. Between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- 4. If burning does not create an excessive amount of particulate matter (smoke), complying with the following:
- a. Woody landscape waste must be dry enough to burn. Green or freshly cut landscape waste shall not be burned. Landscape waste shall not be burned after a rainfall unless the waste has since become dry.
- b. Nothing shall be used to promote combustion other than that required for ignition, such as a match, propane torch, commercial lighter, and sufficient tinder or kindling for ignition. No petroleum products or other accelerants may be used.
- c. Woody landscape waste to be burned must be small enough to burn completely within the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. If not completely burned by 6 p.m., the burning must be completely extinguished at 6 p.m.
- d. The pile of woody landscape waste to be burned must be as small and compact as possible, in order to facilitate complete combustion and minimize smoke, and may not be so large as to result in smoldering or create undue safety hazards. A burn pile's maximum dimensions are 5 feet by 5 feet, or less if required by the relevant FPD.
- e. Poison ivy and poison oak shall not be burned.
- f. Burning of woody landscape waste must not result in odor other than wood smoke. The burning will be extinguished if an odor other than wood smoke is generated, or if excessive amounts of wood smoke are generated.
- g. Burning woody landscape waste shall not be allowed to smolder or produce excessive smoke, and the burning must produce a visible flame at all times. Any smoldering woody landscape waste must be completely extinguished and allowed to dry adequately before attempting to burn it again.
- 5. If the burning is separated from an adjacent dwelling, farm fields, or pastures by a distance equal to half the average width of the property on which the burning is taken place. This distance does not have to exceed 100 feet.
- 6. If the burning is for legitimate campfire, recreational, and cooking purposes or in domestic fireplaces, provided that no garbage is burned.

#### What are the public health hazards of open burning?

Open burning, of landscape waste and other waste, can have adverse effects on public health. Individuals who live with respiratory diseases, severe allergic reactions to smoke, or other health conditions that are severely aggravated by exposure to smoke suffer the greatest negative impacts of open burning.

## What can residents do with their landscape waste, other than burning?

- Shred leaves while mowing and leave them on the lawn to add nutrients to the soil.
- Mulch grass clippings and/or shred leaves while mowing and use clippings and leaves to mulch around shrubs and garden plants, or to create an on-site compost pile.
- Collect landscape waste, including leaves, for collection by a private waste hauler during regular or special garbage pick-up.

Residents of Champaign Township also currently have the option of bringing their landscape waste to the Champaign Township facility at 3900 Kearns Drive. Champaign Township also contracts with some subdivisions within its boundaries for curbside collection of bagged landscape waste. This facility constitutes a landscape waste collection alternative for Champaign Township residents.

## Who should residents contact about a problem in their neighborhood?

To report a problem Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., contact the Champaign County Department of Planning & Zoning at (217) 384-3708. To report a problem outside of business hours or on a weekend or holiday, call the Champaign County Sheriff's Office at the following non-emergency number: (217) 333-8911. Do not call 911.

#### Who can residents contact to get more information?

Residents can find out more about open burning, burning restrictions in Illinois, and alternatives to burning landscape waste by contacting the Champaign County Department of Planning & Zoning at (217) 384-3708 and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 Bureau of Air at (217) 278-5829.

For statewide regulations, the IEPA pamphlet "Do You Have a Burning Question? The Facts About Open Burning in Illinois" is available from the Illinois Small Business Environmental Assistance Helpline, at 1-800-252-3998, and at http://www.epa.state.il.us/air/permits/openburn/open-burning-brochure.pdf.

### **Champaign County, Illinois**

## **Restrictions on the Open Burning of Landscape Waste**

Open burning of landscape waste is generally prohibited in the Prohibited Burn Area (PBA) (shown on the map on pages 2 and 3), and restricted in non-PBA areas of unincorporated Champaign County, by the Champaign County Public Nuisance Ordinance. This handout provides a summary of regulations: citizens are referred to the Champaign County Public Nuisance Ordinance for full details.

OPEN BURNING: The combustion of any matter in such a way that the products of combustion are emitted to open air without originating in or passing through equipment for which a permit could be issued by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

LANDSCAPE WASTE: Any vegetable or plant refuse except food and food product garbage and agricultural waste. The term includes trees, tree trimmings, branches, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery, and yard trimmings.

LANDSCAPE WASTE, WOODY: Landscape waste that is limited to trees, tree trimmings, branches, stumps, and shrubbery branches and stems. No leaves are allowed.

LANDSCAPE WASTE COLLECTION ALTERNATIVE: Any alternative for the removal of landscape waste from properties within a PBA other than that of an individual owner paying a fee to drop off landscape waste at the Landscape Recycling Center at 1210 East University Avenue, Urbana, or paying a service provider or contractor to collect the landscape waste from the property on which the landscape waste was generated.

#### Is open burning of landscape waste prohibited?

The open burning of landscape waste is generally prohibited in the PBA. The open burning of woody landscape waste is allowed under certain conditions in those parts of the PBA located in Urbana, Somer, and Hensley Townships, as these areas do not currently have a landscape waste collection alternative.

# When and how can residents, businesses, industries, farmers, and institutions in non-PBA areas of unincorporated Champaign County burn their landscape waste?

1. If the burning complies with the requirements of the relevant FPD, including as the setting of fires to combat

- or limit existing fires, when reasonably necessary in the judgment of the relevant FPD.
- 2. If the burning is on a site provided and supervised by any unit of local government.
- 3. If the burning is of agricultural waste and conforms to the requirements of the Illinois Pollution Control Board and the IEPA, as established in Title 35 Illinois Administrative Code, Part 237.
- 4. If the burning is specifically permitted by the IEPA, the Illinois Pollution Control Board and IEPA rules regarding open burning as established in Title 35 Illinois Administrative Code, Part 237, and in conformance with any special conditions imposed by the IEPA, and a copy of the permit and any special conditions has been provided to the zoning administrator; or is supervised by a unit of local government.
- 5. If the burning occurs on the same premises where the waste was generated.
- 6. If the burning is NOT on a public or private road, right-of-way, alley, or sidewalk, unless there is specific approval given by the relevant highway authority.
- 7. If the burning does not create a visibility hazard on roadways, railroad tracks, or airfields.
- 8. If the burning will not create a hazard to safety for people or property as a result of sustained wind speed being greater than 10 miles per hour, and/or there being unusually dry weather conditions, subject to a determination by the relevant FPD.

#### When can woody landscape waste be burned in the PBA?

Woody landscape waste can only be burned in areas of the PBA that are within Somer, Urbana, and Hensley Townships.

- 1. If the burning complies with conditions 1-8, above.
- 2. If the burning is supervised with a responsible adult present at the site with a method of extinguishing the fire, such as a shovel and a connected water hose or fire extinguisher.
- 3. If atmospheric conditions will readily dissipate contaminants, including the following conditions:

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## **Appendix D: Prohibited Burn Area**

11/2023



