

# COMMITTED TO SAFETY



## Ohio's Open Burning Laws

### Basic Knowledge:

There are two sets of statewide outdoor burning regulations in Ohio:

- **Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 1503.18** – is under authority of the Ohio Division of Forestry. These regulations are in place to decrease the risk of open burns escaping control and becoming wildfires.
- **Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3745.19** – is under authority of the Ohio EPA. These rules regulate open burning year-round to preserve air quality and ensure health of citizens

In addition to the ORC and OAC, the area in which you live may have local regulations or rules addressing open burning. Be sure to check all applicable local rules, and feel free to contact your local fire department for local information about open burning and outdoor fire safety.

### Working Towards Safety:

Understanding Ohio's open burning rules is key to working toward safety. The following contains **highlights** of each set of rules; however, prior to conducting any outdoor burning, citizens should check over the entire set of ORC and OAC regulations in order to ensure they are compliant and safe. Use the QR codes here for quick access.

- **Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 1503.18** – Ohio Division of Forestry
  - Prohibits most open burning in unincorporated parts of Ohio during the months of March, April, May, October, and November between 6 AM and 6 PM.
  - When burning outside of the restricted times, citizens must remain present with their fire and take precautions to prevent escape, such as clearing of a fire ring to bare soil and using a proper burn barrel when practical.
- **Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3745.19** – Ohio EPA
  - Open burn must be greater than 1000 ft from an inhabited building.
  - Smoke from an open burn cannot impair visibility on roadway, railway, or airfield.
  - Open burning is prohibited during an air pollution alert, warning, or emergency
  - Items always prohibited from open burning include: food waste, dead animals, and petroleum or rubber-base products

