



## TOWN OF SWANSBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT

# Open Burning & Recreational Fires



### What is open burning?

- Open burning is the burning of unwanted materials, such as paper, trees, brush, leaves, grass and other debris, where smoke or other emissions are released directly into the air. During open burning, air pollutants do not pass through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber.
- Open burning pollutes the air and poses a potential fire hazard.
- The air pollution created by open burning can irritate lungs, obscure visibility, soil nearby surfaces, create annoying odors or pose other nuisance or health threats.
- Because of the problems created by this activity, state and local laws prohibit open burning of many materials. Many people are either unaware of the regulations or unsure about which regulations apply to them.
- The fire official is authorized to order the extinguishment by the fire department or persons responsible.

### What type of burning is permitted in town limits?

#### Permitted burning includes:

- ⇒ Camp fires and fires used solely for outdoor cooking and other recreational purposes, or for ceremonial occasions, or for human warmth and comfort and which do not create a nuisance and do not use synthetic materials or refuse or salvageable materials for fuel.
- \* Chimineas and Fire pits are allowable devices for recreational fires. Use clean nontreated wood.



- \* The minimum required distance from a combustible structure shall be 15 feet (25 feet without commercial appliances).

## Can I burn garbage or refuse within the Town of Swansboro limits?

- Ordinance 50.27: **BURNING OR BURYING GARBAGE OR REFUSE** states:

⇒ **It shall be unlawful to burn or set fire to any garbage for the purpose of disposal, unless a permit therefore has been granted by the fire chief. In addition, it shall be unlawful to bury any refuse for the purpose of disposal.**

## Where is the Primary Fire District?

Beginning at the Point in the Town of Swansboro, Onslow County, North Carolina where the centerline of Front Street intersects the extended eastern property line of Thelma Rowe, said property having the street address of 119 Water Street; thence proceeding eastwardly along the centerline of Front Street to its intersection with the centerline of Main Street, thence proceeding northwardly along the centerline of Main Street to its intersection with the centerline of Water Street; thence proceeding eastwardly along the centerline of Water Street to its intersection with the centerline of Moore Street; thence proceeding southwardly along the centerline of Moore Street to the centerline of Front Street; thence proceeding eastwardly along the centerline of Front Street to its intersection with Highway 24; thence proceeding southwardly along the right-of-way line of North Carolina Highway 24 to the White Oak

## Can I burn in the Primary Fire District?

- Ordinance 91.21: **AMENDMENTS; SPECIAL REGULATIONS** states:

⇒ **No person shall burn or cause to be burned any debris, trash, refuse, shavings, paper, leaves, vegetation, litter or any disposed material outside of any structure, on or in any street, alley, sidewalk, lot or yard in the Primary Fire District.**

## The Primary Fire District



Different rules apply inside and outside the town limits of Swansboro

- **Inside the town limits, no open burning is allowed, by law.**
- On properties outside the town limits, yard debris (such as grass clippings, tree limbs, and leaves) may be burned without a permit under the following conditions:
  - (a) the fire must be within 100 feet of an occupied building
  - (b) the fire must be attended at all times
  - (c) the property owner must have a means of extinguishing the fire
  - (d) the debris being burned must originate on that property.

**Fires greater than 100 feet from an occupied building require a burning permit.**