



City of Homer

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Volunteer Fire Department

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Memorandum 16-083

TO: Katie Koester, City Manager
FROM: Robert Painter, Fire Chief
DATE: April 5, 2016
SUBJECT: Use of Burn Barrels Within City Limits

It has been brought to my attention that the State of Alaska Division of Forestry recently changed the regulations pertaining to the use of burn barrels for the disposal of Class A (wood, grass or other organic) materials. They now require permits for the use of burn barrels during the statutory burn season, April 1 through August 31). This change will affect burn barrels within the city limits of Homer as well as all surrounding areas. As such I believe we should amend our section of the code 5.20.020 – Open Burning – Permit Required and 5.20.030 Trash Burning – Approved Container to reflect these changes.

I believe that the addition of a single sentence and the deletion of the struck out section below will suffice for 5.20.020 – “Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section ~~and in HCC 5.20.030~~, no person shall burn any combustible material in the open without a permit from the City, including in approved burn barrels. Burning permits shall be available at the Fire Department and shall be issued only upon approval of the Fire Chief or other official with written delegation of authority from the Fire Chief”.

As for 5.20.030 Trash Burning:

“No person shall burn trash without a permit, ~~except in a screen covered container, or other trash burner approved by the Fire Chief”.~~

Until such time is these city codes are amended, we will to rely on word of mouth and getting word out via social media and the web site regarding the need for permits for the use of burn barrels anywhere on the Kenai Peninsula.