

Chapter 7

Fire Prevention and Fire Protection

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Part 1

Outdoor Burning

§7-101. Purpose.

It is hereby declared that the purpose and intent of this Part is to promote the general health, welfare and safety of residents of Shrewsbury Township by prohibiting the burning of recyclable materials and by regulating the outdoor burning of all materials and substances in Shrewsbury Township so as to preclude negligent and unsafe practices in the conduct of such burning in order to protect the health, safety and property of residents of the Township.

(Ord. 02-07, 3/13/2002, §1)

§7-102. Fires on Public Property.

No person or persons, firm, corporation, partnership, or association shall set or maintain any fire upon any of the streets, sidewalks, alleys, or public grounds in Shrewsbury Township for the purpose of burning or causing to be burned any papers, boxes, rubbish, leaves or other material or substance of any kind.

(Ord. 02-07, 3/13/2002, §2)

§7-103. Fires on Private Property.

Outdoor fires other than those fully contained within a non-flammable barrel, drum, or other similar container or in an outdoor grill or hibachi utilized for cooking purposes shall be subject to the following regulations:

- A. No fire or burning shall occur unless York County Fire Control (1-800-427-8347) is informed prior to the starting of any fire and at the completion of the burning.
- B. No fire shall be permitted to burn except between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.
- C. No fire shall be permitted to burn unless an adult person is present to regulate and control the burning during the entire time the fire is in existence. It is the intent of this Part that no fire shall be left unattended.
- D. Burning distance requirements on calm days are as follows:

Diameter of Burn Area at Base	Distance From Buildings
2 feet or less	25 feet
3 feet or less	30 feet
4 feet or less	35 feet
5 feet or less	40 feet
6 to 14 feet	50 feet
14 to 20 feet	55 feet

Diameter of Burn Area at Base**Distance From Buildings**

Over 20 feet (This shall be considered a "large scale fire" and require a large scale fire permit pursuant to §§7-104 and 7-105 of this Part).

E. No fire shall be permitted to burn if wind conditions are such that the smoke will blow onto any dwelling or other building owned by someone other than the owner of the property where the burning is occurring.

F. No fire shall be permitted to burn within 100 feet of a building if the wind is blowing in the direction of such building and sparks blow 6 feet from the base of such fire, and no fire of any kind shall be permitted if wind conditions are such that sparks blow more than 20 feet from the base of such fire.

G. No plastic, aluminum, glass, paper, cardboard or recyclable material shall be burned in any fire.

H. No wet garbage or other organic material which smolders and emits offense odors shall be burned in any fire. It is the intent of this Part to permit the burning of combustible or flammable non-recyclable material which will not smolder or emit offensive odors.

I. No hazardous waste materials or containers of such materials shall be burned in any fire.

(*Ord. 02-07, 3/13/2002, §3*)

§7-104. Prohibited Activities.

1. No person or persons, firm, corporation, partnership, or association shall set or maintain any fire other than a fire fully contained within a nonflammable barrel, drum, or similar container or in an outdoor grill or hibachi utilized for cooking purposes unless a permit to permit such burning has been received from Shrewsbury Township.

2. No person or persons, firm, corporation, partnership, or association shall set or maintain any fire which burns or attempts to burn plastic, aluminum, glass, paper, cardboard or other recyclable materials or burns or attempts to burn wet garbage or other organic material which smolders and emits offensive odors. It is the intent of this Part to permit the burning of combustible or flammable non-recyclable material which will not smolder or emit offensive odors or smoke.

3. No person or persons, firm, corporation, partnership, or association shall set or maintain any fire which burns or attempts to burn hazardous waste materials or containers of such materials.

(*Ord. 02-07, 3/13/2002, §4*)

§7-105. Burning Permit.

1. A burning permit may be obtained from Shrewsbury Township along with a copy of this Part for a fee as established by resolution of the Board of Supervisors which shall permit the holder thereof to set and maintain fires as provided by §7-103 of this Part, excepting for large scale fires. This permit shall be for the calendar year obtained and shall expire on December 31, and shall permit the setting and maintaining of other than large scale fires during that period unless revoked by Shrewsbury Township because the holder thereof has failed to comply with one or more of the requirements

of this Part.

2. A large scale fire permit may be obtained from Shrewsbury Township to permit the setting and maintaining of a "large scale fire." The applicant for such permit must describe the materials intended to be burned and the proposed place of burning. The provisions of §7-103 of this Part shall govern such fire and, in addition, any special provision the Township may make in the interest of public safety due to the nature and size of the proposed fire. The application fee shall be in an amount set by resolution of the Board of Supervisors. The application for a large scale fire permit may be denied if the Township determines it is unsafe or if the applicant has failed to comply with the provisions of this Part with respect to other fires he has set or maintained. This permit shall be good for the proposed fire only.

3. All permits shall be issued in the names of all of the owners of the property and all applications shall be signed by one or more of such owners. In applying for such permit the signer of the application shall warrant that in applying for such permit he is acting as agent for all of such owners and that such owners will be bound by all of the requirements of this Part. A permit shall not be granted if the applicant or one of his agents has in the past set or maintained a fire in violation of one or more of the provisions of this Part.

(Ord. 02-07, 3/13/2002, §5)

§7-106. Open Burning Ban.

The Supervisors of Shrewsbury Township are hereby authorized to adopt a resolution prohibiting all outdoor fires, other than fires fully contained within a nonflammable barrel, drum, or other similar container or in an outdoor grill or hibachi utilized for cooking purposes, within Shrewsbury Township when in the judgment of said Supervisors such fires are deemed hazardous because of drought conditions. Following adoption of such resolution, Shrewsbury Township shall give notice thereof by the publication of such notice at least one time in a newspaper of general circulation within the Township. For the purpose of enforcement of this provision of this Part, proof of publication of such notice shall constitute proof of notice to the residents of Shrewsbury Township of the adoption of such resolution. Following the publication of such notice, the setting or maintaining of any outdoor fire within Shrewsbury Township, other than fires fully contained within a nonflammable barrel, drum, or other similar container or in an outdoor grill or hibachi utilized for cooking purposes, shall constitute a violation of the provisions of this Part. The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to suspend any burn ban if such action is approved by the Fire Chiefs of the Glen Rock Hose and Ladder Company, Rose Fire Company No. 1 and Shrewsbury Fire Company with such suspension to be effective until the next meeting of the Board of Supervisors. Such ban may be removed by an affirmative vote of the Board of Supervisors.

(Ord. 02-07, 3/13/2002, §6)

§7-107. Extinguishing Open Burning.

Any fire department shall have the right to extinguish any fire when such action is deemed necessary to protect the safety of persons or property.

(Ord. 02-07, 3/13/2002, §7)

§7-108. Liability.

Compliance with the provisions of this Part shall not relieve any person or persons, firm, corporation, partnership, or association setting or maintaining a fire from liability for damage to persons or property of others caused by such fire nor shall it impose liability on Shrewsbury Township for such damage.

(Ord. 02-07, 3/13/2002, §8)

§7-109. Penalties.

Any person, firm or corporation who shall violate any provision of this Part, upon conviction thereof in an action brought before a magisterial district judge in the manner provided for the enforcement of summary offenses under the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure, shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$1,000 plus costs and, in default of payment of said fine and costs, to a term of imprisonment not to exceed 90 days. Each day that a violation of this Part continues or each Section of this Part which shall be found to have been violated shall constitute a separate offense.

(Ord. 02-07, 3/13/2002, §9; as amended by Ord. 2008-02, 8/6/2008)

§7-110. Permit Revocation.

In addition to the penalties provided in §7-109 hereof, Shrewsbury Township may revoke any permit obtained pursuant to §7-105 hereof if the permit holder is found by the Township Supervisors to be in violation of any provision of this Part.

(Ord. 02-07, 3/13/2002, §10)

§7-111. Short Title.

This Part shall be known as the "Shrewsbury Township Outdoor Burning Ordinance."

(Ord. 02-07, 3/13/2002, §12)

Part 2**Fire Safety and Prevention****§7-201. Purpose.**

The purpose of this Part is to:

- A. Guard against the occurrence of fire.
- B. Protect the property and lives of the citizens, property owners, emergency responders, and those employed within the Township against damage and accident resulting from fires.
- C. Govern conditions hazardous to life and property from fire or explosion.
- D. Provide for proper utilities, accessories and access required by the fire department to aid in fighting fires.

(Ord. 2006-03, 10/4/2006, §7-201)

§7-202. Administrative Authority.

The Codes Enforcement Officer shall be responsible for enforcing compliance with this Part. All subdivision and/or land development plans shall be submitted to the Fire Chief for review, upon the recommendation of the Shrewsbury Township staff, Shrewsbury Township Planning Commission, and/or Shrewsbury Township Board of Supervisors. The Township Codes Enforcement Officer shall consult with the Fire Chief prior to issuing any occupancy permit to ensure that all required fire related improvements have been made and the provisions of this Part have been complied with.

(Ord. 2006-03, 10/4/2006, §7-202)

§7-203. Liability of Damages.

This Part shall not be construed to relieve or lessen the responsibility or liability of any party owning, controlling or installing any building material, device or equipment for damages to persons or property caused by the defect therein; nor shall the Township or the Fire Department, or any of their officers, agents, or employees be held as assuming responsibility for any damages to persons or property by reason of the enforcement or lack of enforcement of any of the provisions of this Part.

(Ord. 2006-03, 10/4/2006, §7-203)

§7-204. Access to Fire Hydrants.

1. All commercial, industrial, and institutional buildings within the designated “growth boundary” of the Township shall be located not more than 300 feet from a public fire hydrant by direct public or private road access.

2. All residential buildings within the designated “growth boundary” shall be located not more than 500 feet from a public fire hydrant by direct public or private road access.

(Ord. 2006-03, 10/4/2006, §7-204)

§7-205. Supplemental Fire Hydrants.

1. Supplemental fire hydrants serving all buildings use types shall be provided in a ratio of at least one hydrant for every 100,000 square feet of ground area or portion thereof involved in the development, subject to the flow requirements established by the Fire Chief. Supplemental hydrants shall only apply within the designated “growth boundary.”

2. Supplemental fire hydrants shall be provided for all buildings (except single-family and two-family buildings) that are:

A. Over 100 feet in length or width or both.

B. Situated at a distance greater than 100 feet from a public road.

C. Of such size, construction, location or occupancy use in relationship to public roads and public fire hydrants as many be deemed by the Fire Chief to constitute a condition hazardous to life and property due to fire or explosion and when deemed necessary by the Fire Chief for the Fire Department to serve the premises.

3. Supplemental fire hydrants shall include all hydrants, water mains not less than 6 inches in diameter, valves, and appurtenances which are dedicated to the public use of the Township for use in fire suppression. The Fire Chief shall determine the number of hydrants, as well as, their location, as he deems reasonable and necessary in order to provide sufficient supplemental fire protection to the premises.

4. Supplemental fire hydrants shall not be located greater than 300 feet from the furthest point of the building to be served nor shall they be located greater than 20 feet from an approved public or private road.

(Ord. 2006-03, 10/4/2006, §7-205)

§7-206. Fire Lane Requirements and Design Standards.

Fire lanes shall include any roadway, parking lot, driveway, sidewalk, or portion thereof necessary for the passage or positioning of fire vehicles, equipment, personnel, and apparatus. The following requirements and design standards shall apply to fire lanes:

A. *Required Fire Lane Locations.* Fire lanes shall be required for all uses in accordance with Table 7-1, except single-family detached, two-family, and row dwellings. The required number and location of fire lanes shall be provided as illustrated in the Shrewsbury Township construction and materials specifications.

B. *Width.* Fire lanes shall be a minimum 20 feet wide.

C. *Height.* All fire lanes shall be clear of overhead obstructions to a minimum height of 14 feet.

D. *Weight Standard.* Fire lanes shall be constructed so that they are capable of supporting vehicles having 20 tons on a single axle with dual wheels and standard road tires in all weather conditions. All fire lanes, emergency vehicle access drives, and all portions of any parking area or access drive connecting the fire lane to a public street shall be constructed to the minimum pavement design specifications located in the Shrewsbury Township construction and materials specifications or an alternate method approved by the Township Engineer.

E. *Slope/Gradient.* Fire lane slopes and gradients shall not restrict fire apparatus movement or positioning, while providing positive drainage. Slopes in excess of 5% are prohibited.

F. *Turning Radius.* Fire lanes shall be constructed to accommodate the turning movement of all emergency vehicles currently in the Fire Department’s fleet. Turning radius templates must be submitted to the Township for review.

G. *Dual Use.* Fire lanes may be included within a parking lot or may be constructed as a separate facility. If permitted, the design criteria is shown in the Shrewsbury Township construction and materials specifications.

H. *Access to Building.* Each side of a building where a fire lane is required shall have an entrance located at the midpoint of the building.

Table 7-201 Required Number of Fire Lanes

Building Size	Required Number of Fire Lanes	Location of Fire Lanes
Longest side up to 150' in length	1	Longest side
Longest side up to 300' in length	2	1 on longest side
Longest side up to 400' in length	3	2 on longest side:
Longest side greater than 400' in length	As directed by the Fire Chief	
Longest side greater than 400' in length	As directed by the Fire Chief	

Note: Buildings less than 12,000 square feet and fully sprinklered shall require one fire lane.

I. *Use of Maneuvering Aisle or Fire Lane.* Parking against a building with proper fire lanes may be permitted without the need for “no parking-fire lane” signs under certain circumstances at the discretion of the Fire Chief. If permitted, the design criteria is shown in the Shrewsbury Township construction and materials specifications. The maneuvering lane shall be considered the lane directly adjacent to the building or structure off which perpendicular, angled, or parallel parking is allowed.

J. *Distance From Building.* Fire lanes shall be a minimum of 10 feet and a maximum of 50 feet distance from a building.

K. *Maintenance.* All fire lanes must be maintained and remain unobstructed at all times. The fire lane shall be cleared/plowed as a priority during snow events. Clearing of the fire lane shall be completed prior to the remainder of the parking lot.

L. *Signage.* “No parking-fire lane” signs shall be placed at the discretion of the Codes Enforcement Officer and/or Township Engineer with the direction of the Fire Chief, but in no event shall they be placed closer than 50 feet apart or further than 100 feet apart. “Tow away zone” signs may be required in conjunction with the fire lane signage. All signs shall be manufactured and installed in accordance with

the Shrewsbury Township construction and materials specifications.

Any nonresidential use which stores, manufactures, or utilizes potentially hazardous materials including, but not limited to, reactive, combustible, explosive, or radioactive materials, or industrial chemicals, or materials which pose a health hazard, shall display NFPA placard(s) in a conspicuous location or locations, as designated by the Fire Chief. All existing applicable buildings and facilities shall install all required placards within 90 days from date of effect of this Part.

M. *Pavement Markings.* All concrete curbing adjacent to a fire lane shall be painted or pigmented red. In areas where installation of concrete curbing is impractical, the asphalt paving shall be striped in accordance with the Shrewsbury Township construction and materials specifications.

(Ord. 2006-03, 10/4/2006, §7-206)

§7-207. Construction Rules.

Combustible building materials shall not be erected until the following has been accomplished.

A. Operable fire hydrants are in place within 500 road feet of the furthest point of any structure being constructed.

B. An access road (20 feet wide, able to support 25 tons on a single axle with dual wheels and standard road tires) must be constructed to within 100 feet of the furthest point of the structure. This road may be gravel, but must be maintained at all times.

C. No combustible rubbish shall be accumulated on the construction site. Disposal of construction debris by onsite burning is not permitted.

(Ord. 2006-03, 10/4/2006, §7-207)

§7-208. Key Box.

1. A key box shall be required for all commercial, industrial, institutional, and multi-family residential structures, as well as, any structure required by the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code. The key box shall be a Knox-Box 3200 series, a Knox-Vault 4400 series, or other Knox-Vault as approved in writing by the Fire Chief. No other key boxes models or manufacturers shall be permitted. All key boxes shall utilize a “swinging hinged door”; “drop doors” shall not be permitted. Applications for purchase can be obtained from the Codes Enforcement Officer or Fire Chief and must be completed and returned with appropriate payment.

2. *General Specifications for Key Box Installations.*

A. The key box shall be installed on the address side of the building, within sight of and no more than 10 feet from the main entrance.

B. The key box shall be mounted at a height of 6 feet from finished grade to the center of the box.

C. The key box shall be attached to the building with through bolts and may be surface mounted or shall be recessed on existing buildings being retrofitted. Recessed key boxes shall be installed on all new buildings.

D. The key box may have an optional tamper switch, wired on a separate

zone, that will activate a trouble alarm if anyone tampers with the box.

E. The key box shall contain all keys and/or access codes that may be required to gain entry into all locations within the building as well as emergency contact information. Emergency contact information shall be kept current.

F. Owner shall contact the Codes Enforcement Officer to schedule a site visit prior to installation.

3. All applicable existing buildings and facilities shall install all required key boxes within 180 days from date of effect of this Part.

(*Ord. 2006-03, 10/4/2006, §7-208*)

§7-209. Sprinklers.

Sprinklers shall be installed as required by the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code.

(*Ord. 2006-03, 10/4/2006, §7-209*)

§7-210. Tampering with Fire Hydrants, Fire Extinguishers or Fire Apparatus.

Any person who shall, without authority of the Codes Enforcement Officer, Fire Chief or his designee, open any fire hydrant, or who shall wantonly, maliciously, willfully or in a negligent manner tamper with, injure, destroy, damage, break, disturb or impair any fire hydrant, any firefighting appliance or alarm including, but not limited to, a supplemental fire protection system, and the constituent parts and equipment thereof, or any firefighting equipment or apparatus or anything pertaining to the firefighting system, shall be guilty of an offense punishable as set forth in §7-215 hereof.

(*Ord. 2006-03, 10/4/2006, §7-210; as amended by Ord. 2008-02, 8/6/2008*)

§7-211. Obstructing and Disobeying Firefighters.

Any person who shall knowingly or willfully hinder, obstruct or interfere with any firefighter, fire police officer, or any emergency service official in the performance of their duties, or who shall while within the vicinity of any fire or emergency, willfully disobey or disregard any order, directive, rule or regulation of the officer commanding any fire scene or emergency activity during or after such fire or emergency, shall be guilty of an offense punishable as set forth in §7-215 hereof and/or shall be prosecuted under §5112 of the Crimes Code, 18 Pa.C.S.A. §5112.

(*Ord. 2006-03, 10/4/2006, §7-211; as amended by Ord. 2008-02, 8/6/2008*)

§7-212. Numbering of Buildings.

The street/building number assigned by the Township in accordance with the regulations of the United States Postal Service to buildings, structures and premises in the Township shall be numbered in accordance with §§4-103 through 4-105 of the Shrewsbury Township Code of Ordinances.

(*Ord. 2006-03, 10/4/2006, §7-212*)

§7-213. Modification of Requirements.

The Code Enforcement Officer, with the concurrence of the Fire Chief, shall have

the right to modify any of the requirements of this Part, unless required by the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code, upon application in writing by the owner or occupant of a building, structure or premises, or his duly authorized agent, when there are practical difficulties in strictly carrying out the requirements of this Part, provided that the spirit of this Part shall be observed. The particulars of such modification shall be entered upon the records of the Code Enforcement Officer and a copy shall be furnished the person requesting such modification.

(Ord. 2006-03, 10/4/2006, §7-213)

§7-214. Appeal.

Whenever the Code Enforcement Officer shall not grant a modification requested pursuant to §7-213 hereof, or when it is claimed that the provisions of this Part do not apply, or that the true intent or meaning of this Part has been misconstrued or wrongly interpreted, the aggrieved person may appeal in writing to Shrewsbury Township Board of Supervisors within 15 days of the date of the Code Enforcement Officer's decision.

(Ord. 2006-03, 10/4/2006, §7-214)

§7-215. Penalties.

Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this Part or who fails to comply therewith, or who shall violate or fail to comply with any order made hereof, and from which no appeal has been taken or if taken as been fully exhausted in accordance with the procedures set forth in §7-214 hereof, shall for each and every violation and noncompliance respectively, be guilty of an offense and be sentenced to pay a fine not to exceed \$1,000 plus all costs, in default of said fine and costs, to a term of imprisonment not to exceed 90 days. The imposition of a penalty for any violation or noncompliance shall not excuse the violation of noncompliance or permit it to continue; and all such responsible persons shall be required to correct or remedy such violations or noncompliances within a time limit specified by the Code Enforcement Officer, or his designee; and when not otherwise specified, each day that a violation or noncompliance continues shall constitute a separate offense. The application of the above penalty shall not be held to prevent the enforced removal of prohibited conditions or enforcement of the requirements of this Part by appropriate court action.

(Ord. 2006-03, 10/4/2006, §7-215; as amended by Ord. 2008-02, 8/6/2008)

§7-216. Fees.

A fee or fees may be charged for the services provided in §7-202 hereof as shall be established from time to time by resolution of the Board of Supervisors. This fee shall be paid to the Township and shall be designated for use by the Fire Department.

(Ord. 2006-03, 10/4/2006, §7-216)