RE: OPEN BURNING-Single Family Homes

*Pinellas County Ordinance Ref.*

**ARTICLE V-OPEN BURNING**

Sec 58-207. Except as otherwise provided by law or ordinance, a person convicted of violation of this article shall be punished by fine not to exceed $500.00 or by imprisonment in the county jail for the term not exceeding 60 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment. With respect to violations of this code that are continuous with respect to time, each day the violation continues is a separate offense.

The AHJ (Fire Department) shall have the legal authority to prohibit any and all open fires when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fire hazardous. If no complaints of smoke or pollution, the following section may be allowed:

Sec 58-216. Permitted open burning. A campfire or other fire will be allowed that is used solely for recreational purposes, for ceremonial occasions, for outdoor noncommercial preparation of food or on cold days for warming of outdoor workers, as long as excessive visible emissions are not emitted and a permit is obtained.

*Safety Guideline shall be implemented at all times:*

Listed outdoor fireplaces, fire rings and chimineas such as those which can be purchased from a hardware store are permitted to be used for recreational purposes as long as a permit is obtained from the local fire marshal’s office with the following restrictions:

- Manufacturers’ instructions for use must be followed at all times.
- Devices must be located not less than 10 feet from any structure.
- When in use, devices shall be constantly attended by a competent person and a garden hose connected to a water supply shall be readily available.
- Embers must be contained by use of a lid or grate.
- Residents are responsible for the avenue of smoke travel and may be required to extinguish the fire if their smoke is causing a nuisance or health concerns to others.
- Any fire officer has the authority to require the fire to be extinguished if atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous.

Examples of fires not allowed: The burning of such material listed below shall be construed as in violation of the county ordinance and legal action shall be imposed.

Note: No permits are issued for the following within the jurisdiction of St. Pete Beach Fire Rescue

- The burning of land clearing debris such as trees, shrubs, vegetation, leaves
- The burning of household trash, rubbish, furniture or furnishings
- The burning of any construction of storm debris

The above information is intended as a guideline for person(s) wishing to engage in the use of recreational/ceremonial fires as set forth by the authority having jurisdiction. If you have any further questions or need further information, please contact the St. Pete Beach Fire Prevention Division at 727-363-9207.

Thank you,

*Kelly Intzes*  
Fire Marshal  
Fire Prevention Division