



Antioch Fire Department First Fire Protection District

Jon Cokefair, Fire Chief
835 Holbek Drive, Antioch IL 60002
Phone (847) 395-5511 Fax (847) 395-1018

April 14, 2020

Dear Antioch Fire District Residents,

With open burn season upon the First Fire Protection District of Antioch residents, there are concerns that smoke pollution will only make the COVID-19 pandemic worse. It is for this reason that we would like to inform our residents that the Antioch Fire Department has enacted a district-wide open burn and controlled burn ban for the duration of the spring burning season (through June 1, 2020). All previously issued controlled burn permits are no longer valid for this time period. This excludes outdoor fireplaces/pits that are not a nuisance to neighbors.

Based upon available information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 include people of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, people with chronic lung disease and/or people with moderate to severe asthma. As such, people with respiratory illnesses/diseases need to be as healthy as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic as smoke and contaminants could exasperate some residents' respiratory issues and compromise their ability to fend off the Coronavirus. Also, while some people with COVID-19 are currently hospitalized, most patients have self-quarantined at home and smoke from a nearby outdoor burn could worsen their condition.

What is more, with the increase of sick patients in our community due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other medical emergencies, Antioch Fire Department resources will already be taxed. Responding to open burning complaints, uncontrolled open burns or grass fires would be using valuable resources that would be better served helping the ill during the pandemic.

To avoid additional health impacts on our community, district residents are being asked to refrain from conducting any outdoor burning activities until the ban has been lifted. We appreciate your patience and understanding. We are all in this together!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jon Cokefair', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jon Cokefair
Fire Chief

RESOLUTION NO. 2020 - 3

A RESOLUTION OF THE FIRST FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF ANTIOCH TOWNSHIP AUTHORIZING A TEMPORARY BAN ON OUTDOOR BURNING

WHEREAS, the First Fire Protection District of Antioch Township is an Illinois Fire Protection organized and operating under the terms of the Illinois Fire Protection District Act, 70 ILCS 705/1 *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the First Fire Protection District of Antioch Township has been granted the authority to enact ordinances and resolutions for the safety and protection of the residents of the First Fire Protection District of Antioch Township; and

WHEREAS, Section 8.20 of the Illinois Fire Protection District Act, 70 ILCS 705/8.20, authorizes the Board of Trustees and the Fire Chief to prohibit open burning on an emergency basis for a limited period of time if open burning poses an unreasonable danger to persons or the resources of the Fire Department are not sufficient to control or suppress a fire resulting from open burning; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States and the Governor of the State of Illinois have declared a state of pandemic emergency due to the presence and effects of the Coronavirus, COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the symptoms and effects of COVID-19 include respiratory distress which may be aggravated by the presence of outdoor smoke; and

WHEREAS, the presence of the COVID-19 virus has placed a great strain on the manpower of the First Fire Protection District of Antioch Township due to the number of EMS calls and the threat to the members of the Fire Department.

WHEREAS, the proposed resolution is in furtherance of the President of the United States and the Governor of the State of Illinois declaration a state of pandemic emergency in that

the respiratory injuries are exasperated by outdoor burning and the limited resources of the First Fire Protection District of Antioch Township need to be available for EMS services.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FIRST FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF ANTIOCH TOWNSHIP AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the Chief of the First Fire Protection District of Antioch Township is hereby authorized to prohibit open burning within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Fire Protection District.
2. That the Chief of the First Fire Protection District of Antioch Township and the members of the Fire Department are authorized to extinguish any open burn that presents a clear, present and unreasonable danger to the citizens or residents of the First Fire Protection District of Antioch Township.
3. That any and all permits previously issued for open burning during the period of this ban are hereby revoked.
4. That the ban authorized by this Resolution shall expire on June 1, 2020 unless the Board of Trustees of the First Fire Protection District of Antioch Township takes further action to extend the ban.

ADOPTED by the First Fire Protection District of Antioch Township this 14th day of April, 2020.

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN
James Dalgaard, Trustee	<u>✓</u>	___	___
Thomas Dvorak, Trustee	<u>✓</u>	___	___
Thomas Haley, Trustee	<u>✓</u>	___	___
Dean Pedersen, Trustee	<u>✓</u>	___	___
Carolyn Van Patten, Trustee	<u>✓</u>	___	___



President, Board of Trustees

ATTEST:



Secretary