

Air Pollution Control Division

Ohio Environmental
Protection Agency
APC Contractual Representative
Serving All of Stark County

Canton City Health Department

420 Market Avenue North • Canton, Ohio • 44702-1544
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Terri A. Dzienis
APCD Administrator

James M. Adams, RS, MPH
Health Commissioner

CERTIFIED MAIL

July 13, 2012

Martin T & Michelle Rucker
719 32nd St. NW
Canton, OH 44709-2934

**Re: NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF OHIO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 3745-19-03;
unauthorized illegal open burning in a restricted area; First Violation**

The Canton City Health Department, Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) represents the Ohio EPA in air quality matters within Stark County. As such, APCD employees have the authority to investigate and enforce Ohio EPA (OEPA) air pollution regulations.

On Friday, July 6, 2012 at 1859 hrs, Canton Fire Department Truck 9 was at your address for a fire in which you were burning yard debris and trash. Since this property is located in what the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3745-19-01(K) defines as a restricted area, OAC 3745-19-03(B) allows the following without notification to or permission from the Ohio EPA; bonfires, campfires and outdoor fireplace equipment, whether for cooking food for human consumption, pleasure, religious, ceremonial, warmth, recreational, or similar purposes, if the following conditions are met:

- (a) They are fueled with clean, seasoned firewood, natural gas or equivalent, or any clean burning fuel with emissions that are equivalent to or lower than those created from the burning of seasoned firewood;
- (b) They are not used for waste disposal purposes; and
- (c) They shall have a total fuel area of three feet or less in diameter and two feet or less in height.

On Wednesday, July 11, 2012 at approximately 2:15 p.m., I visited your home and observed the burn area, which contained a piece of burnt metal. A photograph was taken during my inspection and is attached for your review. You told me you were burning a body pillow at the time of the fire department's visit. Since these items do not constitute 'clean, seasoned firewood,' this is a violation of OAC 3745-19-03(B). I am enclosing a copy of OAC Rule 3745-19-03 for your reference. Please be aware that Canton City has stricter rules on recreational fires. I am also enclosing a copy of Canton City's fire ordinance.

Rucker
719 32nd St. NW
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Burning household waste produces many toxic chemicals and is one of the largest known sources of dioxin in the nation. Other air pollutants from open burning include particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, lead and mercury. These pollutants have been linked to several health problems, including asthma, respiratory illnesses, nervous system damage, kidney and liver damage, and reproductive or developmental disorders.

This agency requests your cooperation by ceasing any open burning in violation of Ohio EPA regulations. Be advised that the Ohio EPA does have the authority to penalize fines of up to \$250 per day to citizens for open burning violations, and does have the authority to request the attorney general to initiate legal action to seek additional penalties of up to \$25,000. Since this is the first violation at this property, we will not take further action at this time. Any future violation will result in penalties.

Sincerely,



Linda Morckel
Monitoring & Inspections Technician, Air Pollution Control

Enclosure: OAC 3745-19-03, Canton City Fire Ordinance, photo documentation

cc: Canton Fire Department, Interoffice Mail
Correspondence
Complaints File, Open Burning, McKinley Township
L Morckel



719 32nd St. NW, Canton, OH 44709. The photograph was acquired by Ohio EPA Inspections & Monitoring Technician, Linda Morckel on 7/11/2012 at 2:15 p.m. It shows an open burning site with a piece of burnt metal located in bottom middle of photograph. Site is located at rear of property.