

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

August 31, 2012

CERTIFIED MAIL

John Hawkins
14296 Lincoln St SE
Minerva, OH 44657

**Re: NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF OHIO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 3745-19-04;
unauthorized illegal open burning in an unrestricted 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 air pollution regulations.

On Monday, August 27, 2012, Canton City Health Department, APCD received a complaint of open burning at this residence. Since this property is located in what the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3745-19-01(L) defines as an unrestricted area, OAC 3745-19-04(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 except when such fire is used for ceremonial purposes it may have a total fuel area no greater than five feet in diameter and five feet in height, if the ceremonial fire burns no longer than three hours.

On Monday, August 27, 2012 at 2:40 p.m., I visited your home and spoke with you regarding Ohio's open burn regulations. I observed the burn area, which was approximately seven feet in diameter and contained glass, beverage cans, food cans and plastic items. Photographs were taken during my inspection and are attached for your review. Because the burnt items do not constitute 'clean, seasoned firewood,' the fire was used for waste disposal purposes, and the burn area was larger than three feet in diameter, this is a violation of OAC 3745-19-04(B). I am enclosing a copy of OAC Rule 3745-19-04 for your reference.

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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 3745-19-04, photo documentation

cc: Correspondence
Complaints File, Open Burning, Paris Township
Sandy Creek Joint Fire District, c/o Village Hall, 209 N. Market St, Minerva, OH 44657
Bruce Weinberg, Ohio EPA, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049