

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DIVISION

OHIO EPA APC CONTRACTUAL REPRESENTATIVE SERVING ALL OF STARK COUNTY



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

TERRI A. DZIENIS
APCD ADMINISTRATOR

JAMES M. ADAMS, RS, MPH
HEALTH COMMISSIONER

CANTON CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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CANTON, OHIO 44702-1544
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WEB: WWW.CANTONHEALTH.ORG

CERTIFIED MAIL

MAY 28, 2013

Steinmetz Linzee Trustee
512 5th St NW
Canton, OH 44703

**Re: NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF OHIO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 3745-19-03;
unauthorized illegal open burning in a restricted area;
Parcel #237691, vacant lot on 6th St NW, Canton; 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 Friday, May 17, 2013, the Canton City Fire Department was at parcel #237691 on 6th St NW to investigate open burning. The Stark County Auditor's website identifies you as the owner of this property. 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, May 22, 2013 at 2:30 p.m., I visited the property and viewed the burn area with Denny Tan, Monitoring & Inspections Supervisor. We spoke to Roger Benchoff, owner of an adjacent property, who explained that the fire area seems to be used by many area residents and that it is becoming problematic. It contained construction waste, pieces of furniture, leaves and plastic. Photographs were taken during our inspection and are attached for your review. Since these items do not constitute 'clean, seasoned firewood' and the fire was used for the purpose of waste disposal, 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.

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 Database File #8024



Burn area



Construction waste, furniture piece, plastic, and leaves

