

## City of Scranton Open Burn Guidelines

Fire of Council no. 39 of 1970 is the Air Pollution Control Ordinance. Therein, the City banned open burning. The definition of open burning is as follows:

Any unclosed fire wherein products of combustion-are emitted to the open air, *and are not directed thereto through a flue.* (emphasis added)

A "flue" is defined in the ordinance as "any duct, passage, stack, chimney or conduit permitting air contaminants to be omitted..."

From the ordinance, it is clear that any open burning must be done in a container which has a flue to accommodate the smoke and embers. A burn can be a violation for instance.

The BOCA fire prevention code; adopted by the City of Scranton also has a section preventing open burning. It states:

The code official shall prohibit *open burning that* will be offensive or objectionable due to smoke or odor...The code official shall order the extinguishment, by the permit holder or the fire department, of any *open burning* that created or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation.

The fire department considers it to be a *hazardous situation* to allow backyard fires in containers such as "chimineas" without some form of screening to prevent burning embers to escape unfettered into the open air. Such a screen helps prevent flying embers from igniting a rooftop or other combustibles in the vicinity. In fact, "chimineas" and other such stoves for sale, now have such screens as standard equipment.

Thus, from a reading of the applicable ordinance and the BOCA provisions, outdoor stoves are permissible with both a flue and proper screening to disburse burning embers which may escape into the air. The sections referenced are attached.

It should be noted that the BOCA fire prevention code allows "recreational fires" as open burning. "Recreational fires" are defined as fires utilized to cook food.