

Eveleth Police Department
Code Enforcement Office

INFORMATIONAL SERIES

BLIGHT ENFORCEMENT

1. Maintaining the Exterior of Structures: Section 10.23, Subd. 9A provides that the exterior of all structures and accessory structures shall be maintained in a workmanlike state of maintenance and repair, and not present an offensive appearance to neighbors and the traveling public. Every exterior wall shall be free of holes, breaks, loose or rotting boards, plywood or timbers, falling or loose stucco or other masonry. All doors and windows shall be maintained in good repair, fit reasonably well within their frames and be free of open breaks or holes. Siding must be of the type specified in other provisions of the City Code. Exterior wood surfaces, other than decay resistant woods, shall be protected from the elements and decay by painting or other protective covering or treatment. Peeling, flaking and chipped paint shall be eliminated and surfaces repainted.

2. Outside Storage of Firewood on Residential Lots: Section 10.23, Subd. 9B requires that the storage of firewood on residential lots that is not in an enclosed building shall be stored subject to the following minimum requirements:

- Firewood shall not be stored for more than 30 days unless it has been cut and neatly piled in stacks not exceeding 10 feet in length, 6 feet in height and 18 inches in width, or may be stacked in a solidly constructed circular stack not exceeding 8 feet in height;
- Firewood shall be stored in a compact and orderly fashion so as to not constitute a hazard to adjacent buildings or property or to endanger the public health, safety and welfare;
- Firewood shall not be stacked within 3 feet of the walls of a dwelling;
- Firewood shall be stacked up off the surface of the ground and said stack shall not be infested with, or inhabited by rats, rodents, insects or other vermin;
- Stacks of firewood shall be covered by an opaque cover which is in good repair and of a color that blends in with the surroundings, or shielded from view by a lawfully erected fence;
- No firewood may be stored in a front yard or front lot, provided that this subsection shall not prevent businesses that sell firewood to the public in a manner that is deemed necessary for said business purposes, as long as said storage and display does not violate any other provisions of this section;
- The total amount of firewood stored on any residential lot shall not exceed 10 percent of the remaining square footage after deducting the square footage for the front yard and any space occupied by structures. No residential lot shall contain more than 10 cords of firewood;
- The accumulation of debris typically associated with the processing of firewood, including but not limited to sawdust, pieces of bark, branches and wood remnants is prohibited.

3. Recreational Fire Restrictions. A recreational fire is defined as an outdoor fire burning clean, dry firewood and is not contained within an outdoor fireplace, portable outdoor fireplace, barbecue grill or barbecue pit. Recreational fires are used for cooking, pleasure, warmth or similar purposes. Recreational fires are allowed without a permit, but are subject to the following restrictions:

- All recreational fires must be in a fire ring with a border designed from natural rock, cement, brick, tile or ferrous metal only. The fire ring may be depressed below ground, on the ground or on a raised bed;
- Fire rings must be no more than three feet in diameter, with a maximum flame height of three feet;

- Only clean dry firewood may be burned. No brush, leaves, cardboard, painted wood or other yard, building or household waste or treated wood may be burned;
- The fire must be located on the owner's own property and must be a minimum of 25 feet from all property lines, and a minimum of 25 feet from any structure or other combustible materials;
- Fires are prohibited if winds are in excess of 15 miles per hour or if a burning ban has been activated by the DNR, St. Louis County, State or City.
- All fires shall be attended and supervised by an adult person that is knowledgeable in the use of fire extinguishing equipment, until such time that the fire has been completely extinguished;
- Any means of controlling the fire must be readily available at all times (fire extinguisher, garden hose, shovels, for example).
- Any code enforcement officer or fire officer may withdraw permission for any fire due to climatic conditions, extreme dryness, nuisance problems including offensive odor or smoke in the neighborhood, or violations of the guidelines. If permission for the fire has been withdrawn, the fire must immediately be extinguished. If the person in charge of the fire refuses or fails to extinguish the fire upon being ordered to do so, the City may extinguish the fire and any costs incurred as a result of extinguishing the fire shall be paid by the owner of the involved property. If said person fails to pay for the specified costs, the City may submit an accounting of all amounts due to the Office of the St. Louis County Auditor as a special assessment against the property involved.
- The burning of any substance in a steel barrel, drum or pail is prohibited.

4. Limitations on Number of Vehicles Parked Outside on Residential Property. A person must not cause, undertake, permit or allow the outside parking or storage of vehicles on residential property unless it complies with the following requirements:

- No more than four vehicles per lawful dwelling unit may be parked or stored anywhere outside on residential property, except as otherwise permitted or required by the City because of non-residential characteristics of the property. The maximum number does not include vehicles of occasional guests who do not reside on the property;
- Vehicles that are parked or stored outside in the front yard or front lot areas must be on a paved or graveled parking surface or driveway area which is accessed through a properly constructed curb-cut through any existing curbing;
- Vehicles, watercraft and other articles stored outside on residential property must be owned by a person who resides on that property. Students who are away for school for periods of time, but still claim the property as their legal residence will be considered residents on the property.

Please watch for the next handout in this series, where additional regulations in the newly adopted blight code will be discussed. If you are experiencing a blight issue in your neighborhood, please feel free to report the matter to the Independent Contract Code Enforcement Officer by phone or text at (218) 750-0340, or by email at codeofficer@evelethpd.gov. You may also report the matter to the Police Department at (218) 744-7560, or drop off a written complaint in the drop box at City Hall. Reports can be made anonymously if you would rather not provide your name when making a complaint. Thank you for taking the time to read this information and for taking an interest in the betterment of the City of Eveleth.