

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

October 11, 2024

To: CORE
Deans, Directors, and Chairs

From: Stefan Fletcher, Secretary and Chief of Staff to the Board of Trustees



Subject: Guidelines for fires in tailgating areas, [Ordinance 19.00](#)

MSU Ordinance 19.00 outlines parameters for setting fires on property governed by the Board of Trustees. Specific to tailgating on campus during home football games, the ordinance notes that the setting of fires associated with tailgating is permitted in compliance with guidelines to be issued by the Secretary of the Board of Trustees. This is done to ensure a safe tailgating environment. As such, individuals setting a fire in tailgating areas must comply with the following:



Secretary of the Board of Trustees

Hannah Administration Building
426 Auditorium Road, Room 450
East Lansing, MI 48824

517-353-4647
Fax: 517-355-4670
trustees.msu.edu

- Fires must be in approved containers for fires no larger than 30-inches in diameter
- Fires must not be placed within 10 feet of combustible/flammable materials (e.g., tents, vehicles, trees, or bushes)
- Fires must not be placed within 30 feet of buildings or within 10 feet of sidewalks (or on sidewalks).
- Fires are not allowed in buildings, tents, or parking structures
- Fires must be continuously attended by an individual aged 18 or over
- Fires must be extinguished and cool to touch prior to leaving unattended
- Do not dispose of hot coals in dumpsters or on the ground
- Do not place hot coals or containers containing hot coals (including but not limited to burn pits or grills) inside vehicles when leaving the tailgating area
- A fire extinguisher must be in the tailgating area at least five feet away from the fire or grill. The fire extinguisher must be a multipurpose extinguisher that can fight fires caused by ordinary combustible, flammable liquids, or electrical equipment (e.g., an ABC fire extinguisher).

In general, fires deemed unsafe by the Fire Marshal, or designee(s), are not permitted. This includes but is not limited to reasons related to weather and burn bans.

If you have any questions, please contact the Michigan State University Fire Marshal, Tom Miller, at millert@dpps.msu.edu or (517) 432.7932.