




City of Phoenix

FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION SECTION

Explanatory Policy – Outdoor Combustible Storage

SUBJECT: Permit requirements for Outside Combustible Storage on any premise.	EFFECTIVE DATE: July 12, 2021
REFERENCES: The Phoenix Fire Code (2018 Edition) Section 105.6.6, 105.6.29, 105.6.49, 105.6.50, 105.6.51.1 and 105.6.51.15 2019 NFPA 13 20.4	REVIEW DATE: July 2024
APPROVED:	
 John Mertens, Fire Marshal	

Scope:

This policy provides specific requirements for miscellaneous combustible storage that poses a fire hazard in its natural or processed state when stored. This standard applies to new and/or existing storage sites.

Waste handling and recycling operations, inside or outside a structure, are required to have an operational permit that renews annually. Additional outside storage permits may be required when outside combustible storage exceeds the thresholds below.

The threshold for requiring an operational permit for the storage and processing of mulch, wood chips, hogged materials, fines, compost, solid biomass feedstock and raw product produced from yard waste, debris and agro-industrial and recycling facilities is more than 200 cubic feet. All other combustible materials have a threshold of 2,500 cubic feet.

Example:

- 200 Cubic feet can be a combination of product that covers a total of 10 feet by 10 feet by 2 feet high.
- 2500 cubic foot storage can be configured in variety of ways. Outside storage with dimensions of roughly 20 feet by 20 feet by 6 feet high.

Pallets at 8 feet height by 18 feet x 18 feet would exceed the threshold. Any accumulation greater than the aggregate of 5 feet high by 10 feet wide by 50 feet long would also require a permit. Any



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aggregate combination over 2,500 cubic feet for outside combustible storage in a single or multiple pile location requires a permit.

Other combustible materials include facilities storing, selling or processing wood and forest products, including solid biomass, sawdust, wood chips, shavings, bark mulch, shorts, finished planks, sheets, posts, poles, timber and raw logs, recycling materials of a combustible nature (paper, plastic, electronics, automobiles, appliances etc.), combustible dust, fibers or metals, furniture or any other product classified as a Class II or higher commodity by NFPA 13.20.4 definitions.

Code References:

105.6.6 Combustible dust-producing operations. An operational permit is required to operate a grain elevator, flour starch mill, feed mill, or a plant pulverizing aluminum, coal, cocoa, magnesium, spices or sugar, or other operations producing combustible dusts as defined in Chapter 2.

105.6.29 Miscellaneous combustible storage. An operational permit is required to store in any building or on any premises in excess of 2,500 cubic feet (71m³) gross volume of combustible empty packing cases, boxes, barrels or similar containers, combustible pallets, rubber tires, rubber, cork or similar combustible material.

105.6.46 Storage of used or scrap tires and tire byproducts. An operational permit is required to establish, conduct or maintain storage of used or scrap tires and tire byproducts that exceeds 2,500 cubic feet (71 m³) of total volume of scrap tires, and for indoor storage of tires and tire byproducts

105.6.49 Waste handling and recycling operations. An operational permit is required for the operation of wrecking yards, junk yards, waste material-handling facilities and recycling operations.

105.6.50 Wood products. An operational permit is required to store chips, hogged material, lumber or plywood in excess of 200 cubic feet (6 m³).

105.6.51.1 Agro-industrial and solid biomass facilities. An operational permit is required to store agro-industrial products, chips, hogged material, lumber or plywood in excess of 2,500 cubic feet (71m³).

105.6.51.15 Junk yard, salvage and wrecking operations. An operating permit is required for the operation of wrecking yards, salvage, and junk yards.