

**CITY OF CORDOVA, ALABAMA**  
**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-07**

**AN ORDINANCE REGULATING OPEN BURNING WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF CORDOVA,  
ALABAMA; REQUIRING A PERMIT ISSUED BY THE FIRE CHIEF; AND PROVIDING FOR  
ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alabama, as follows:

**SECTION 1. PURPOSE AND FINDINGS**

The City Council finds that uncontrolled or improperly supervised burning poses a threat to public health, safety, welfare, and property. The purpose of this Ordinance is to regulate open burning within the corporate limits of the City of Cordova in order to prevent fire hazards, protect air quality, and safeguard residents and property.

**SECTION 2. APPLICABILITY**

This Ordinance shall apply to all open burning conducted within the corporate limits of the City of Cordova, Alabama, located in Walker County.

**SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS**

For purposes of this Ordinance:

- Open Burning means the combustion of any material in the open air without the use of a fully enclosed incinerator or approved burning device.
- Permit means written authorization issued by the City of Cordova Fire Chief or his/her designee allowing open burning under specified conditions.

**SECTION 4. PERMIT REQUIRED**

- A. No person shall conduct open burning within the City of Cordova without first obtaining a burn permit from the Fire Chief or his/her authorized designee.
- B. Burn permits shall:
  - Be issued for a specific location and time period;
  - Specify allowable materials to be burned;
  - Include safety requirements and restrictions;
  - Be subject to revocation at any time due to weather conditions, public safety concerns, or noncompliance.
- C. The Fire Chief may deny any permit request when conditions pose an unreasonable fire risk.

**SECTION 5. MATERIALS PROHIBITED FROM BURNING**

The following materials shall not be burned under any circumstances:

- Garbage or household waste
- Tires
- Plastics or synthetic materials
- Treated lumber
- Hazardous or toxic substances
- Any material prohibited by state or federal law
- Only natural vegetative debris, such as brush, limbs, and yard trimmings, may be approved for burning unless otherwise authorized by law.

**SECTION 6. GENERAL CONDITIONS AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**

All permitted burns shall comply with the following:

- A responsible adult must be present at all times during the burn.
- Adequate fire suppression equipment must be available on-site.
- Burning shall not occur during high wind conditions or during any declared burn ban.
- Burning shall not create excessive smoke affecting neighboring properties or public roadways.
- Burning must cease immediately upon direction of the Fire Chief, Police Department, or other authorized official.

**SECTION 7. EXEMPTIONS**

The following shall be exempt from the permit requirement:

- A. Outdoor cooking fires contained within grills, smokers, or fire pits used for food preparation;
- B. Recreational fires in approved fire pits, provided such fires are small, controlled, and do not involve prohibited materials;
- C. Fires conducted by the Fire Department for training purposes.

Nothing in this section shall exempt any person from compliance with state burn bans or emergency declarations.

**SECTION 8. ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES**

- A. This Ordinance shall be enforced by the Cordova Fire Department, Police Department, and other authorized officials.
- B. Any person violating this Ordinance shall be subject to:
  - Immediate extinguishment of the fire;
  - Revocation of permit;
  - Citation for violation of a municipal ordinance;
  - Fines and penalties as permitted by law.
  - Each day a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

**SECTION 9. SEVERABILITY**

If any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions.

**SECTION 10. ORDINANCE REPEALED**

Ordinance dated May 15, 1951 (no number listed) previously adopted by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Cordova, Alabama is hereby repealed because its effect is amended and/or replaced by the enactment of this Ordinance.

**SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption and publication as required by law.

**ADOPTED AND APPROVED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026.

  
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JEREMY PATE, Mayor

ATTEST:  
  
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Robin Mitchell, City Clerk/Treasurer

CERTIFICATION OF CITY CLERK/TREASURER

STATE OF ALABAMA     )  
WALKER COUNTY        )

I, Robin Mitchell, City Clerk/Treasurer of the City of Cordova, Alabama, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of an Ordinance duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alabama, on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026.

The above and foregoing Ordinance was published on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026, by posting copies thereof in three public places within the City of Cordova, one of which was the post office or the Mayor's office in the City of Cordova.

Witness my hand and seal of office this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026.

*Robin Mitchell*

Robin Mitchell, City Clerk/Treasurer

