




**OCEAN CITY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE**  
301 Baltimore Avenue, Ocean City, MD 21842  
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**MEMORANDUM**

Subject: Tiki Torch Guidance on Public/Private Property	Memo #: 2020-002
	Effective: July 29, 2020
Authority: Deputy Chief Josh Bunting, Fire Marshal 	Internal (FMO Staff)

This memorandum serves as guidance for inquiries and the enforcement for the use of small, paraffin/kerosene oil "Tiki"-style combustible fuel torches (tiki torches) within the Town of Ocean City, as it relates to the overall restriction of open-air burning within the Town outlined in the Ocean City Fire Prevention Code 34-43(a)(14).

Public Property

Tiki torches are only permitted on Ocean City's beach as part of a beach bonfire permit. Those wishing to utilize tiki-torches on the beach must follow the normal permitting requirements for a beach bonfire to ensure proper safety, location, usage, and emergency services notification to avoid nuisance alarms and accidental ignition of nearby combustibles. Tiki torches are otherwise not permitted for other public properties (parks/lots/etc.)

Private Property

Professionally manufactured tiki torches are permitted to be used at residential occupancies, where utilized in the following manner:

1. Secured and utilized in accordance with manufacturers recommendations.
2. Used outdoors, not affixed to any structure or attached combustible deck or installed beneath any building overhang, and at least 10 feet from the building and any combustible material.
3. Safely fueled at a separate location away from combustibles and the use/ignition location.

Applications for the installation of permanent, gas-fired tiki style torches, subject to installation inspection and regular maintenance/testing, may be considered for occupancies not addressed above. Application process follows the review process for Outdoor LP/NG Gas Appliances.

The continued, permitted use of "Tiki" style torches in ANY occupancy shall be dependent on compliance with OCFPC Sec 34-106 regarding Nuisance Alarms, related to reports of smoke/fire and may be revoked by this office.