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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 4, 2017**

## **MUST HAVE ACRE OR MORE TO BURN LANDSCAPE WASTE**

*Muscatine residents reminded of guidelines for open burning on their property*

**MUSCATINE, Iowa** – The City of Muscatine reminds residents that open burning is allowed with a permit only and only under specific circumstances. A rash of fires over the weekend and area residents spotted burning leaves and other debris on their property prompted to offer this safety reminder.

As a general rule, no open burning is allowed within the City of Muscatine.

However, Individuals who have property of an acre or more can be issued permits to burn landscape waste (leaves, organic material, brush, and trees) gathered from that property according to 15-5-2 (D). Building materials are not included. That material should be taken to the Transfer Station and Recycling Center for disposal.

Permits for open burning are issued by the Muscatine Fire Department and are available at this link: [Open Burning Permit](#). The City Code for open burning is located in Title 15 – Fire Regulations, Chapter 5 – Open Burning, and can be downloaded at this link: [Fire Regulations](#).

If a property owner obtains a permit from the Fire Department for open burning of landscape waste, the property owner is required to burn in small piles that are easily controlled and extinguishable. A complete list of the regulations for open burning are included on the permit application.

**COMPOST SITE**



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Property owners within the City of Muscatine have the ability to gather landscape waste and take that waste to the Compost Site, 1000 S. Houser St., where the property owners can deposit that waste for free.

All loads taken to the Compost Site must be secured. Yard waste (grass clippings, leaves, and plants grown in residential yards only), brush and branches (not to exceed 10-feet x 10-feet), and larger trees and logs (no tree stumps or roots) are accepted at the Compost Site.

The Compost Site will close for the season at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017. The Compost Site may close before that day in the event of a major snow storm. The Compost Site reopens in March 2018.

Yard waste can be picked up curbside on the resident's garbage day if the waste is in a City Yard Waste bag. Those bags are available for purchase at the Transfer Station, Fareway, and both HyVee locations. Branches will also be picked up curbside on trash day if they are bundled, no longer than four-feet, and no larger than 18-inches in diameter.

Residents with branches that are larger than these dimensions can contact the Department of Public Works (DPW) at 563-263-8933 to be added to their weekly list. The DPW will accept branches up to 10-feet in length.

## **LEAF PICKUP**

The City of Muscatine plans to continue leaf pickup rotating through Zones 1-8 as weather permits. Department of Public Works crews will be completing a third round of leaf collection this week. Details on any further pickup or the suspension of pickup activities will be announced as they become available.