

The City of Des Moines welcomes approximately 868 new residents who live in areas involuntarily annexed by the City as of June 26, 2009. The new net acreage being added to Des Moines is 5,174 acres in Polk and Warren counties.

The amended involuntary annexation petition included 5,933 acres of land as of July 13, 2005. Since that time, 759 of those acres were voluntarily annexed into the City at the property owners' request. The annexed land has an assessed value of approximately \$61 million.

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Becoming a Des Moines resident also means there are some new regulations to abide by in City ordinances that cover everything from the regulation of pets and other animals to minimum standards for buildings and other structures, to the storage and disposal of trash and solid wastes. Polk County Board of Health Rules & Regulations governs open burning. To help with the transition the City sent information packets to each household.

**Read About it:** <http://www.dmgov.org/annexation2009/>

## Open Burning FAQ

### **Question: Can I burn my garbage? Can I continue to have open burning on my property?**

Answer: No, the City of Des Moines abides by the Polk County Board of Health, Rules and Regulations, Chapter V, Air Pollution Control states, in part "...It shall be unlawful for any persons to open burn or to permit open burning of any refuse, rubbish, garbage, landscape waste or other combustible material within the cities of Des Moines...from any source from and after September 21, 1983."

### **Question: Are fire pits allowed within the city limits?**

Answer: No. There are no recreational fires permitted in the city limits without a permit from the Polk County Air Pollution Control Office. To apply for a bonfire/burn permit, you may contact them at 286-3351. \*\*A fire pit does not have under-fire air – they are not considered a grill or a fireplace.\*\*

### **Question: Why are fire pits sold in the city if we cannot use them?**

Answer: Stores sell them to people to take outside the city limits to use (camping, etc.) or to people who live in other cities.

### **Question: What is the difference between a fireplace and a grill?**

Answer: Des Moines follows the rules set by the Polk County Board, the complete policy can be found at <http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/airquality/>. Refer to Article III Section 5-7. A "fireplace," for the purposes of Article III Section 5-7, means a structure, with an open recess at the base of a chimney or stack, with a grate for food preparation and provisions for under-fire air, for holding an outdoor fire off the ground. A "grill," for the purposes of Article III Section 5-7, means a cooking utensil with a grate for food preparation and provisions for under-fire air, for holding an outdoor fire off the ground.

**Question: Are fireworks allowed in Des Moines?**

Answer: Only sparklers and worms/snakes. Fireworks displays are permitted by licensed operators with approval by the City Fire, Police, and Legal Departments.