



EVESHAM TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1

Fire Prevention Division

P.O. Box 276 – 984 Tuckerton Road – Evesham, New Jersey 08053-0276 – 856-983-2750

November 26, 2024

Re: New Jersey Fire Code Change – Mulch/Combustible Landscape Materials

Dear Evesham Business/Apartment Complex Owners,

On April 15, 2024, the State of New Jersey Division of Fire Safety adopted the 2018 International Fire Code, New Jersey Edition. Specifically, new sections 305.6 and 305.7 of this code address a new provision targeting landscape materials surrounding buildings.

This change will affect the use of combustible landscape materials or “mulch” in all applications except for owner occupied, one-and two-family or attached single family dwellings (homes) used exclusively for dwelling purposes.

305.6 Landscape Materials: The use of combustible landscape materials, such as wood-based mulch products, is prohibited in any of the following conditions:

1. Within 18 inches of any building or structure; or
2. Within 18 inches of a deck, porch, balcony, or any other portion of the building constructed of combustible material; or
3. Within 18 inches of any designated smoking area defined in section 310.2.

Exceptions:

1. Live plant material such as shrubs, flowers, and trees provided that they are not beneath a combustible overhang with less than 6 feet of clearance.
2. Non-combustible building or structure exteriors that have no combustible components or trim with less than 3 feet clearance from grade.
3. Fire resistant mulch.

305.7 Existing materials: This provision shall become operative April 15, 2025, all occupancies subject to this code shall remove all combustible landscape materials that are located within 18 inches of the foundation of any building or structure or in the area of any designated smoking area. This product may be replaced with non-combustible materials such as stone or sand.

If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact the Fire Prevention Division at 856-983-2750.

Respectfully,

Deputy Chief Scott Freedman
Fire Official/Fire Marshal