

**ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**ORGANIZED CAMPS AND CAMPGROUNDS**  
**ORDINANCE**

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **1.1 Legal Authority**

The following rules and regulations are adopted under the provisions of the “Local Health Administration Law”, Act 315, approved August 24, 1951, P.L. 1304, 16 P.S. §12001 *et seq.*

### **1.2 Provisions**

The provisions of these rules and regulations shall apply to all municipalities in Erie County within the jurisdiction of the Department and shall apply equally to all persons. These rules and regulations shall be liberally construed and applied to promote the protection of the public health.

## **DEFINITIONS**

### **2.1 Definitions**

Approved – procedures, construction or products acceptable to the Erie County Department of Health.

Camping Cabin – a recreational unit that is a hard sided shelter that is not more than 400 square feet in area and is on skids designed to facilitate relocation. The unit does not have a direct connection to a source of water. The unit may have electrical service.

Campground – a tract or tracts of land, or any portion thereof, used for the purpose of providing a space or spaces for trailers, recreational vehicles (RVs), tents, park models, camping or resort cabins, or other structures as herein defined, for camping or temporary living with or without a fee being charged for the leasing, renting or occupancy of such space.

Department - the Erie County Department of Health

Garbage – all putrescible wastes, except sewage and body waste

Permitted space – the available sites used to determine the Department's campground fee.

Organized Camp - a combination of programs and facilities established for the primary purpose of providing an outdoor group living experience for children youth and adults, with social, recreational and educational objectives, which is operated and used for five or more consecutive days during one or more seasons of the year.

Park Models – a recreational unit that is built on a single chassis mounted on wheels that has an area of not more than 400 square feet and that is certified by the manufacturer as complying with the American National Standards Institute Standard, ANSI 119.5.

Permit – the document issued by the Erie County Department of Health, which authorizes a person to operate an organized camp or campground.

Person - shall include any individual, landowner (which is defined as any person holding title to or having a proprietary or equitable interest in either surface or subsurface rights), landlord, lessor, land occupier (including but not limited to easement owner, tenant, lessee or occupant of a structure or land, whether the landowner or not, any corporation, including public or private corporation for profit or not for profit, association, partnership firm, trust, trustee, estate, executor, executrix, administrator, administratrix or other fiduciaries, department board, bureau or agency of the Commonwealth, political subdivision, municipality, district, authority or any other legal entity whatsoever which is recognized or other legal entity set forth above. Whenever used in any clause prescribing and imposing a penalty or imposing a fine or imprisonment the term "Person" shall include all of the above set forth individuals and entities as well as members, officers, and/or employees of any corporation, an association, partnership or firm and the officer, directors of any local agency, municipality, municipal authority and/or political subdivision and the

supervisors, councilmen, of any political subdivision public or private corporation for profit or not for profit.

Refuse - means all non-putrescible wastes generally regarded and classified as rubbish, trash, junk and similar materials which have been discarded by the owner or possessor thereof as useless or worthless to them.

Resort Cabin – a recreational unit that is a hard sided shelter that is greater than 400 square feet in area, or is not on skids but is permanently attached to the ground, or has a water connection inside the cabin.

Safe Drinking Water Act - the Pennsylvania Safe Drinking Water Act (P.L. 206, No. 43) (35 P.S. §721.1 *et seq.*), and appropriate regulations, 25 Pa. Code, Chapter 109.

Sanitary Station - means a facility used for disposing of sewage generated by travel trailers, truck campers, motor homes, camping trailers, or recreational vehicles.

Sewage - means any substance that contains any of the waste products or excrement or other discharge from the bodies of human beings or animals and any noxious or deleterious substances being harmful or inimical to the public health, or to animal or aquatic life or to the use for domestic water or for recreation or which constitutes pollution under The Clean Streams Law (35 P.S. § 691.1-691.1001). The term shall include, but not be limited to toilet, sink, kitchen or laundry waste water, liquid waste and seepage from floor drains, liquid waste from sink drains from any structure including any trailers, campers, motor homes, cabins or recreational vehicles, garbage cans, dumpsters or compactors and the cleaning waste from these garbage storage containers.

Sewerage system - any community or individual system, publicly or privately owned, for the collection, conveyance, treatment and disposal of sewage and of a liquid nature, including various devices for the treatment of such sewage.

Sewage Regulations - the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act, (P.L., 1535, No. 537) (35 P.S. § 750.1 *et seq.*) and appropriate regulations, 25 PA. Code Chapters 71, 72 and 73.

Space – an area of land in an organized camp or campground for the placement of a single trailer, tent, park model, camping cabin or resort cabin for the exclusive use of the occupants.

Tent - a portable lodging unit usually made of canvas, plastic, skins or strong cloth stretched and usually sustained by poles that is dependent upon separate toilet and sink facilities.

Trailer - a vehicular portable structure built on, or designed to be mounted on a chassis or wheels or constructed as an integral part of a self-propelled vehicle for use as a temporary dwelling for travel, recreation and vacation commonly known as travel trailers, pick-up truck campers, motor homes, camping trailers, pop-up campers or recreational vehicles (RV's).

Vector - any rodent, insect or other animal, which is capable of carrying or harboring a disease infectious to man.

Waters of Commonwealth - Rivers, streams, creeks, rivulets, impoundments, ditches, water courses, storm sewers, lakes, dammed water, ponds, springs, and other bodies or channels of conveyance of surface and underground water, or of their parts, whether natural or artificial within or on the boundaries of the Commonwealth.

Water Supply - a source or sources of water including any and all water treatment, storage and distribution facilities.

## **PERMITS**

### **3.1 Permit requirement**

No person shall operate or permit to be operated within the County of Erie an organized camp or campground that does not possess a valid permit, issued by the Department. A separate permit is required for

each separate organized camp or campground operating in Erie County. Only a person who complies with the provisions and requirements of these rules and regulations shall be entitled to receive or retain such a permit. Permits are not transferable. Permits are valid from the date of issuance and must be renewed every year thereafter.

### **3.2 Initial Application for Permit**

(a) Any person desiring to operate an organized camp or campground in Erie County shall make written application for a permit on forms provided by the Department. Each application for permit must be accompanied by a plan review fee in accordance with the fee schedule established by the Erie County Council.

(b) Prior to approval of an application for a permit, the Department shall inspect the organized camp or campground to determine compliance with the requirements of the rules and regulations. The Department shall issue a permit to the applicant if the inspection reveals the organized camp or campground complies with these rules and regulations and the permit fee is paid.

### **3.3 Permit Renewal**

Organized camp and campground permits shall be renewed annually on forms provided by the Department. Request for renewal of a permit must be submitted to the Department with the appropriate fee prior to the expiration date of the existing permit. Renewal of permits requires Department approval of the organized camp or campground.

### **3.4 Issuance**

Organized camp and campground permits will be issued annually on the basis of satisfactory compliance with the provisions of these regulations, on forms provided by the Department. Permits are non-transferable and non-assignable.

### **3.5 Fees**

The fee for an organized camp or campground permit shall be that provided for in the Environmental Fee Schedule established by Erie County Council.

### **3.6 Revocation and Suspension**

The Department may suspend any permit to operate an organized camp or campground if:

- (a) The holder of the permit does not comply with the provisions and requirements of these Rules and Regulations.
- (b) The operation of the facility does not comply with the provisions and requirements of these Rules and Regulations.
- (c) The operation of the organized camp or campground otherwise constitutes a substantial hazard to public health.

The Department may revoke any permit to operate an organized camp or campground if:

- (a) Serious or repeated violations of any provisions of these rules and regulations continue or
- (b) Interference of a Department representative(s) in the performance of their duties occurs.

Nothing in this regulation shall prevent the Department from ordering an organized camp or campground to close and cease operations if an imminent health hazard exists, such as but not limited to a lack of water, a contaminated water supply or sewage malfunction.

## **PLAN REVIEW**

### **4.1 Submission of Plans**

Whenever an organized camp or campground is to be constructed, expanded or extensively remodeled or whenever an existing facility is to be converted for use as an organized camp or campground, properly prepared plans and specifications for such construction, remodeling or conversion shall be submitted to the Department for review and approval. No construction may begin prior to plan approval by this Department.

The plans and specifications shall include, but not be limited to, information relating to the grounds, buildings, equipment, sewage disposal, water supply including all plumbing, refuse disposal, vector control and any other information as may be required by the Department.

## **CABINS AND PARK MODELS**

### **5.1 Camping Cabins**

- (a) A camping cabin occupies a permitted space in the organized camp or campground.
- (b) The space may have a water connection or outlet outside the camping cabin, but not inside the camping cabin.
- (c) Water using sanitary fixtures, such as toilets, sinks, showers, are not allowed in the camping cabin.
- (d) Local municipal building and zoning approval is required, if applicable.
- (e) The number of spaces occupied by camping cabins must be reported to the Department.

## **5.2 Resort Cabins**

- (a) A resort cabin occupies a permitted space in the organized camp or campground.
- (b) If a resort cabin has water available inside the cabin the resort cabin must be connected to an approved sewage disposal system.
- (c) Prior to the construction or installation of a resort cabin, approval of the Department is required.
- (d) Local municipal building and zoning approval is required, if applicable.
- (e) The number of spaces occupied by resort cabins must be reported to the Department.

## **5.3 Park Models**

- (a) A park model occupies a permitted space in the organized camp or campground.
- (b) A park model must be connected to an approved sewage disposal system.
- (c) A park model may not be installed without prior approval of the Department.
- (d) Local municipal building and zoning approval is required, if applicable.
- (e) The number of spaces occupied by park models must be reported to the Department.

## **WATER SUPPLY**

## **6.1 Requirements**

- (a) Adequate quantities of potable water for the needs of the organized camp or campground shall be provided.
- (b) Those facilities that meet the definition of a public water supply under the Pennsylvania Safe Drinking Water Act shall be constructed in accordance with the Non Community System Design Standards for Water Supplies Public Water Supply Manual of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.
- (c) Those facilities that meet the definition of a public water supply under the Pennsylvania Safe Drinking Water Act shall meet all applicable water quality and monitoring requirements established by the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- (d) Those facilities not deemed to be a public water supply under the Safe Drinking Water Act shall comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act monitoring and sampling requirements for Transient Non Community Water Supplies.
- (e) All water used in organized camps or campgrounds must meet the maximum contaminant levels (MCL) as set forth by the Safe Drinking Water Act and regulations.
- (f) Adequate water pressure shall be provided at all times to all fixtures at toilets, showers, sinks, and other equipment that uses water.
- (g) The potable water supply shall be installed to preclude the possibility of backflow. Devices shall be installed to protect against backflow and back siphonage at all fixtures and equipment where an air gap at least twice the diameter of the water supply inlet is not provided between the inlet and the fixture's flood level rim. No hose shall be attached to a faucet unless a backflow prevention device is installed.

## **6.2 New Source Requirements**

No new source or sources of water may be developed for an organized camp or campground until the following conditions are met:

- (a) The site location for the source(s) is verified and approved by the Department.
- (b) Water supply construction meets standards set forth by the Department and the Safe Drinking Water Act and regulations.
- (c) The water supply is tested and analyzed for all parameters in accordance with the new source sampling matrix under the Safe Drinking Water Act and regulations, and all parameters are found to be within acceptable limits and do not exceed the maximum contaminant level (MCL) as established by the Safe Drinking Water Act.

## **PLUMBING**

### **7.1 Requirements**

Plumbing shall be sized to carry adequate quantities of water to required locations throughout the organized camp or campground, to prevent contamination of the water supply, to properly convey sewage and liquid wastes from the camp or campground facilities to the sewage system and to not create an unsanitary condition or public health nuisance.

### **7.2 Cross Connections**

There shall be no cross connections between the potable water supply and any other non-potable system containing:

- (a) Water of unknown or questionable origin
- (b) Contaminating or polluting substances

If a non-potable water system is permitted for purposes such as air-conditioning, equipment cooling and fire protection, the non-potable

water system must not contact, directly or indirectly, any potable water, food, equipment or similar items that use water. The piping of any non-potable water system shall be durably identified so that it is readily distinguishable from piping that carries potable water.

## **SEWAGE DISPOSAL**

### **8.1 Requirements**

Sewage disposal systems serving an organized camp or campground shall be approved by the Department. Approval shall be based upon satisfactory compliance with the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act, (P.L., 1535, No. 537) (35 P.S. § 750.1 *et seq.*) and appropriate 25 PA. Code Chapters 71, 72 and 73 and the Clean Streams Law (35 P.S. § 691.1 *et seq.*). If an approved public sewer is available, it shall be used.

### **8.2 Wastewater connections**

All sewage waste discharge lines, including grey water (i.e. kitchen, shower and laundry sink wastes) from any trailers must be connected to the sewage system while situated on a site at the campground or into a water tight tank and not allowed to discharge directly onto the surface of the ground or into unapproved sewage disposal systems.

All sewage waste discharge lines from resort cabins and park models must be connected to a sewage system approved by the Department.

# **SANITARY STATIONS**

## **9.1 Requirements**

Organized camps or campgrounds which provide space for trailers shall provide sanitary stations in order that the removal and disposing of sewage, including liquid waste, from trailer holding tanks is accomplished in a sanitary manner. At no time shall campers be allowed to discharge sewage, including liquid waste and grey water from hoses directly or indirectly onto the surface of the ground or into unapproved facilities or sewage systems.

## **9.2 Ratio**

Each organized camp or campground shall provide a sanitary station in the ratio of one for every 100 trailer spaces or fractional part thereof.

## **9.3 Construction**

Each sanitary station shall consist of at least the following:

- (1) A 4-inch sewer pipe which shall be connected to an approved sewage disposal system, surrounded at the inlet end by a concrete apron sloped to the drain.
- (2) A suitable fly-tight cover which shall be provided to the 4-inch sewer pipe.
- (3) A water outlet, with the necessary appurtenances and connected to a water supply system to permit a wash down of the immediate adjacent areas after each use.
- (4) There shall be a visible air gap or backflow/back siphonage device on the water supply at this location. No hose may be connected at this location without a backflow or back siphonage device.

## **9.4 Public warning**

Each water outlet used for wash down purposes at sanitary stations shall conspicuously display at all times a sign stating: “Notice, This Water for Flushing and Cleaning Purposes Only and Not for Human Consumption.”

# **TOILET AND HANDWASHING FACILITIES**

## **10.1 Requirements**

- (a) Organized camps and campgrounds shall provide toilet facilities on the premises for the public which are separate for each sex.
- (b) Toilet facilities, including rooms and fixtures, shall be of a sanitary design and easily cleanable.
- (c) Toilet facilities shall be kept in a clean condition and in good repair.
- (d) The doors of all toilet rooms shall be self closing.
- (e) All toilet rooms shall be vented to the outside in a manner acceptable to the Department.
- (f) Toilet tissue shall be provided.
- (g) Easily cleanable receptacles shall be provided for waste materials.
- (h) Waste receptacles for women shall be covered.

## **10.2 Ratios in Organized Camps**

- (a) Toilet facilities in organized camps shall be provided in the ratios indicated in the following table:

<u>Number of Persons</u>	<u>Number of Toilets</u>		<u>Number of Hand Sinks</u>		<u>Number of Urinals</u>
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
1 to 20	1	2	1	2	1
<i>Each additional 20 Persons</i>	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1

(b) Organized camps which do not provide overnight lodging and serve a minimum of one meal per day are not subject to the requirements in subsection (a) but shall provide toilet and sink facilities acceptable to the Department.

### 10.3 Ratios in Campgrounds

(a) Toilet facilities in campgrounds shall be in addition to the requirements for sanitary stations as indicated in Section 9.1- 9.4 and shall be provided in the ratios indicated in the following table:

<u>Number of Spaces</u>	<u>Number of Toilets</u>		<u>Number of Hand Sinks</u>		<u>Number of Urinals</u>
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
1 to 15	1	1	1	1	1
16 to 30	1	2	2	2	1
31 to 45	2	2	3	3	1
46 to 60	2	3	3	3	2
61 to 80	3	4	4	4	2
81 to 100	3	4	4	4	2
<i>Each Additional 1 to 100 spaces</i>	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1

## **10.4 Hand Sinks**

All hand sinks in organized camps and campgrounds shall be provided with soap and single-service towels. The use of a common towel is prohibited.

# **GARBAGE AND REFUSE**

## **11.1 Collection**

The collection of garbage and refuse shall be conducted in a sanitary manner and as often as necessary to prevent a nuisance.

## **11.2 Storage**

All garbage and refuse containing food wastes shall be kept in durable, easily cleanable, leak-proof, insect and rodent proof, non-absorbent, rust and corrosion resistant containers which are provided with tight fitting, lids, doors or covers. There shall be a sufficient number of containers to hold all the garbage and refuse that accumulates. Containers stored outside, including dumpsters and compactors, shall be kept covered when not in actual use. Garbage and refuse shall be placed in tight plastic bags prior to placement in outside dumpsters or containers to minimize insect and rodent problems. All other refuse shall be stored in containers, rooms or areas of sufficient number and size in a manner so as to prevent rodent and/or insect problems or a public nuisance.

## **11.3 Container Cleaning**

Soiled containers shall be thoroughly cleaned at a frequency that prevents insect and rodent attraction.

## **11.4 Disposal**

All garbage and refuse are to be disposed of in a landfill facility permitted by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

## **VECTORS**

### **12.1 Control**

Effective measures intended to control the presence of rodents, flies, mosquitoes, cockroaches, and other insects or vectors on the premises shall be utilized. Pesticide application, when necessary, shall be conducted by a certified pest control applicator/operator and in accordance with the pesticide label. The premises shall be kept in such condition as to eliminate the harborage, food and water conditions conducive to insect, rodent or other vector infestations.

## **RETAIL FOOD FACILITIES**

### **13.1 Requirements**

(a) When a retail food facility is provided at an organized camp or campground the food facility and all attached operations shall comply with the applicable provisions of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Retail Food Facility Safety Act (3 Pa.Con.Stat. Ann. §5701 *et seq.*).

(b) A separate, valid Retail Food Facility License issued by the Department must be obtained for each retail food facility.

## **PUBLIC SWIMMING AND BATHING PLACES**

### **14.1 Requirements**

(a) When a public swimming or bathing place is located at an organized camp or campground it must be in compliance with the provisions of the Pennsylvania Public Bathing Law, the Act of June 23, 1931, P.L. 899 (35 P.S. §672 *et seq.*) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health Title 28 Chapter 18, Rules and Regulations for Public Swimming and Bathing Places (28 Pa. Code §18.1 *et seq.*).

## **PENALTIES**

### **15.1 Summary Offenses**

Any person who violates any of the provisions of these rules and regulations of the Erie County Department of Health, or who interferes with the Health Director or any other agent of the Erie County Department of Health in the discharge of his official duties, shall, for the first offense, upon conviction thereof in a summary proceeding before a Magisterial District Justice of Erie County wherein said offense was committed, be sentenced to pay the costs of prosecution and a fine of not less than thirty dollars (\$30) nor more than three hundred dollars (\$300), and in default thereof, to undergo imprisonment of not less than ten (10) days nor more than thirty (30) days.

### **15.2 Misdemeanors**

Any person who violates any of the provisions of these rules and regulations of the Erie County Department of Health, or who interferes with the Health Director or any other agent of the Erie County Department of Health in the discharge of his official duties, convicted of a second or subsequent offense, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall, upon conviction thereof, be sentenced to pay

a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or to undergo imprisonment not exceeding one (1) year, or both.

### **15.3 Separate Offenses**

For the purpose of this Section, violations on separate days shall be considered separate offenses.

### **15.4 Injunctions**

The Erie County Department of Health may seek to enjoin violations of these rules and regulations or may proceed in any court of law or equity to obtain any additional cumulative remedies to abate any violation under these rules and regulations. Nothing in these rules and regulations shall in anyway alter rights or action or remedies now or hereafter existing in equity, or under the common law or statutory law, criminal or civil.

## **SEVERABILITY**

If any section, sub-section, paragraph, clause, or provision of these rules and regulations shall be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the rules and regulations as a whole or any part thereof. It is here by declared to be the intention of the Erie County Department of Health, the Erie County Board of Health, and the Erie County Council that the remainder of the rules and regulations would have been enacted if such invalid section had not been enacted and that it is their intent, intention and desire that the remaining portion of the rules and regulations remain in effect.