

The Minnesota State Fire Code (MSFC) does not specifically prohibit smudging or similar activities, however the code does regulate smoking materials and open flame. There's general language that prohibits open flame or burning where highly flammable, combustible or explosive material is utilized or stored (e.g. a candle cannot be lit in a flammable liquids storage area). And sources of ignition must be separated from combustible materials in an approved manner. In other words, the open flame or burning activity must not create a fire hazard. The exception would be if the burning were to occur during a public meeting or gathering, in which case a permit may be required.

Also, the fire code official may prohibit smoking in areas where it creates a hazard (see Section 310.1 and 310.2 below). Although it is unclear as to whether a smudge stick is considered "a type of smoking paraphilia or material," the potential hazards are the

same.

In summary, smudging is not prohibited by the fire code, but it cannot be done in a location or manner that creates a hazard. The smudge stick should be placed in a substantial, non-combustible receptacle (e.g. a suitably sized ash-tray), and never left unattended while burning. Once completed, full extinguishment should be assured and the stick stored in a proper receptacle. Hot ashes or smoldering materials cannot be deposited in a combustible receptacle or in a manner or location that could cause an unwanted fire.

A related concern would be smoke particles causing a fire alarm system activation if there were smoke detection devices nearby, so this activity should not take place in areas having smoke detection coverage.

308.1.1 Where prohibited. A person shall not take or utilize
an open flame or light in a structure, vessel, boat or
other place where highly flammable, combustible or
explosive material is utilized or stored. Lighting appliances
shall be well-secured in a glass globe and wire mesh

cage or a similar *approved* device.

308.1.2 Throwing or placing sources of ignition. A person shall not throw or place, or cause to be thrown or placed, a lighted match, cigar, cigarette, matches, or other flaming or glowing substance or object on any surface or article where it can cause an unwanted fire.

305.1 Clearance from ignition sources. Clearance between ignition sources, such as luminaires, heaters, flame-producing devices and combustible materials, shall be maintained in an *approved* manner.

310.1 General. The smoking or carrying of a lighted pipe, cigar, cigarette or any other type of smoking paraphernalia or material is prohibited in the areas indicated in Sections 310.2 through 310.8.

310.2 Prohibited areas. Smoking shall be prohibited where conditions are such as to make smoking a hazard, and in spaces where flammable or combustible materials are stored or handled.