

**Ordinance # 2005 1-031**  
**OUTDOOR LIGHTING ORDINANCE**

**A. Purpose**

1. To require and set minimum standards for outdoor lighting to:
  - a. Provide lighting in outdoor public places where public health, safety and welfare are potential concerns.
  - b. Protect drivers and pedestrians from the glare of non-vehicular light sources that shine into their eyes and thereby impair safe traverse.
  - c. Protect neighbors and the night sky from nuisance glare and stray light from poorly aimed, placed, applied, maintained or shielded light sources.
  - d. Protect and retain the rural character of the Morris Township and to implement the Morris Township Comprehensive Plan.

**B. Applicability**

1. Outdoor lighting shall be required for safety and personal security for uses that operate during hours of darkness where there is public assembly and traverse, including but not limited to the following uses: multi-family residential, commercial, industrial, public-recreational and institutional.
2. Appropriate officers or agents of the Morris Township may require lighting be incorporated for other uses or locations, as they deem necessary
3. The glare-control requirements herein contained apply to lighting in all above-mentioned uses as well as, but not limited to, sign, architectural, landscape and residential lighting.

**C. Definitions**

1. Footcandle - A unit of light intensity stated in lumens per square foot and measurable with an illuminance meter, a.k.a. footcandle or light meter.
2. Glare - The sensation produced by lighting that causes an annoyance, discomfort or loss in visual performance and visibility to the eye.
3. Illuminance - The quantity of light measured in footcandles or lux.
4. Light Trespass - Light emitted by a lighting installation, which extends beyond the boundaries of the property on which the installation is sited.
5. Luminance - The physical and measurable quantity corresponding to the brightness of a surface (e.g., a lamp, luminaire, reflecting material) in a specific area, and measurable with a luminance meter.



Use/Task	Maintained Footcandles	Uniformity Avg. : Min.
(a) Streets, local commercial Residential	0.9 Avg. 0.4 Avg.	6:1 6:1
(b) Parking, multi-family residential, • Low vehicular/pedestrian activity • Medium vehicular/pedestrian activity	0.2 Min. 0.6 Min.	4:1 4:1
(c) Parking, industrial/commercial/institutional/municipal • High activity, e.g., regional shopping centers/fast food facilities, major athletic/civic/cultural events. • Medium activity, e.g. community shopping centers, office parks, hospitals, commuter lots, cultural/civic/recreational events • Low activity, e.g., neighborhood shopping, industrial employee parking, schools, church parking.	0.9 Min. 0.6 Min. 0.2 Min.	4:1 4:1 4:1
(d) Sidewalks	0.5 Avg.	5:1
(e) Building entrances, commercial, industrial, institutional	5.0 Avg.	-
(f) Service Station Pump Islands	10.0 Avg.	
(g) Car Dealerships	20.0 Max.	5:1 Max :Min.

- Notes: 1. Illumination levels are maintained horizontal footcandles on the task, e.g., pavement or area surface.  
2. Uniformity ratios dictate that average illuminance values shall not exceed minimum values by more than the product of the minimum value and the specified ratio. E.g., for commercial parking high activity, the average footcandles shall not be in excess of 3.6 (0.9 x 4).

## 2. Lighting Fixture Design

- a. Fixtures shall be of a type and design appropriate to the lighting application and aesthetically acceptable to the Township.
- b. For lighting horizontal tasks such as roadways, sidewalks, entrances and parking areas, fixtures shall meet IESNA "full-cutoff" criteria (no light output emitted above 90 degrees at any lateral angle around the fixture).
- c. The use of floodlighting, spotlighting, wall-mounted fixtures, decorative globes and spheres and other fixtures not meeting IESNA "full-cutoff" criteria, shall be permitted only with the approval of the Township, based upon applicability in retaining the rural character of the Township and achieving acceptable glare control.
- d. When requested by the Township, fixtures shall be equipped with or be modified to incorporate light directing and/or shielding devices such as shields, visors, skirts or hoods to redirect offending light distribution and/or reduce direct or reflected glare.
- e. For residential applications, omni-directional fixtures, e.g., post top, wall bracket, wallpack, globe and sphere, shall meet IESNA "full-cutoff" criteria.
- f. NEMA-head fixtures, a.k.a. "barn lights" or "dusk-to-dawn lights," shall not be permitted where they are visible from other uses, unless fitted with a reflector to render them full cutoff.

## 3. Control of Nuisance and Disabling Glare



- a. All outdoor lighting, whether or not required by this Ordinance, on private, residential, commercial, industrial, municipal, recreational or institutional property, shall be aimed, located, designed, fitted and maintained so as not to present a hazard to drivers or pedestrians by impairing their ability to safely traverse and so as not to create a nuisance by projecting or reflecting objectionable light onto a neighboring use or property.
- b. All outdoor lighting fixtures shall be shielded in such a manner that no light is emitted above a horizontal plane passing through the lowest point of the light emitting element, so that direct light emitted above the horizontal plane is eliminated. All individual outdoor lighting fixtures that illuminate the area under outdoor canopies shall comply with this requirement. Outdoor canopies include, but are not limited to, the following applications:
  - 1. Fuel island canopies associated with service stations and convenience stores.
  - 2. Exterior canopies above storefronts in shopping centers and malls.
  - 3. Exterior canopies above driveways and building entrances.
  - 4. Pavilions and gazebos.
- c. Floodlights and spotlights shall be so installed or aimed that they do not project their output into the windows of neighboring residences, adjacent uses, skyward or onto a public roadway. The use of searchlights or laser source lights for advertising or entertainment purposes is prohibited.
- d. Unless otherwise permitted by the appropriate officers or agents of the Township, e.g., for safety or security or all-night operations, lighting for commercial, industrial, public recreational and institutional applications shall be controlled by automatic switching devices such as time clocks or combination motion detectors and photocells, to permit extinguishing outdoor lighting fixtures between 11 p.m. and dawn, to mitigate nuisance glare and sky-lighting consequences.
- e. Lighting proposed for use after 11 p.m., or after the normal hours of operation for commercial, industrial, institutional or municipal applications, shall be reduced by seventy-five percent (75%) from then until dawn, unless supporting a specific purpose and approved by the appropriate officers or agents of the Township.
- f. All illumination for advertising signs, buildings and/or surrounding landscapes for decorative, advertising or esthetic purposes is prohibited between 11:00 p.m. and sunrise, except that such lighting situated on the premises of a commercial establishment may remain illuminated while the establishment is actually open for business, and until one hour after closing.



- b. If appropriate corrective action has not been effected within thirty (30) days of written notification, the Township may commence legal action as provided in Sections I. and J. below.

2. Nuisance Glare and Inadequate Illumination Levels

- a. When appropriate officers or agents of the Township judge an installation produces unacceptable levels of nuisance glare, skyward light, excessive or insufficient illumination levels or otherwise varies from this Ordinance, the Township may cause written notification of the person(s) responsible for the lighting and require appropriate remedial action.
- b. If appropriate corrective action has not been effected within thirty (30) days of notification, the Township may commence legal action as provided in Sections I. and J. below.

H. Nonconforming Lighting

- 1. Any lighting fixture or lighting installation existing on the effective date of this Ordinance that does not conform with the requirements of this Ordinance, shall be considered as a lawful nonconformance subject to the following:
  - a. Unless minor corrective action is deemed by the Township to be an acceptable alternative, a nonconforming lighting fixture or lighting installation shall be made to conform with the applicable requirements of this Ordinance when:
    - (1) It is deemed by The Township to create a safety hazard.
    - (2) It is replaced, abandoned or relocated.
    - (3) There is a change in use.
  - b. Nonconforming lighting fixtures and lighting installations shall be made to conform with the requirements of this Ordinance or removed within two (2) years after the effective date of this Ordinance.

I. Violations and Penalties

- 1. Any person who violates or permits a violation of this Ordinance shall, upon being found liable therefore in a civil enforcement proceeding commenced by the Township before a District Justice, pay a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500), plus all court costs including reasonable attorney's fees, incurred by the Township in the enforcement of this Ordinance. No judgement shall commence or be imposed, levied or payable until the date of the determination of the violation by the District Justice. If the defendant neither pays nor timely appeals the judgement, the Township may enforce the judgement pursuant to the



5. Maintenance

- a. Lighting fixtures and ancillary equipment shall be maintained so as always to meet the requirements of this Ordinance.

E. Plan Submission

For subdivision and land-development applications where site lighting is required or proposed, lighting plans shall be submitted to the Township Planning Commission for review and approval and shall include:

- a. A site plan, complete with all structures, parking spaces, building entrances, traffic areas (both vehicular and pedestrian), vegetation that might interfere with lighting, and adjacent use that might be adversely impacted by the lighting, containing a layout of all proposed fixtures by location and type
  - b. Isofootcandle plots for individual fixture installations, or 10'x10' illuminance-grid plots for multi-fixture installations, which demonstrate compliance with the intensity and uniformity requirements as set forth in this Ordinance.
  - c. Description of the proposed equipment, including fixture catalog cuts, photometrics, glare reduction devices, lamps, on/off-control devices, mounting heights, pole foundation details and mounting methods.
2. When requested by appropriate officers or agents of the Township, applicant shall also submit a visual-impact plan that demonstrates appropriate steps have been taken to mitigate on-site and off-site glare and to retain the rural character of the Morris Township.
  3. Post-approval alteration to lighting plans or intended substitutions for approved lighting equipment shall be submitted to the Planning Commission for review and approval as a formal modification as outlined in the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.

F. Post Installation Inspection

The Township reserves the right to conduct a post-installation nighttime inspection to verify compliance with the requirements of this Ordinance, and if appropriate, to require remedial action at no expense to itself

G. Compliance Monitoring

Safety Hazards

- a. If appropriate officers or agents of the Township judge a lighting installation creates a safety or personal-security hazard, the person(s) responsible for the lighting shall be notified in writing and required to take remedial action.



- g. Illumination for flagpole lighting may not exceed 10,000 lumens.
  - h. Vegetation screens shall not be employed to serve as the primary means for controlling glare. Rather, glare control shall be achieved primarily through the use of such means as cutoff fixtures, shields and baffles, and appropriate application of fixture mounting height, wattage, aiming angle and fixture placement.
  - i. In no case shall the intensity of illumination exceed 0.1 vertical footcandle measured line-of-site at the property line.
  - j. Externally illuminated signs and billboards shall be lighted by fixtures mounted at the top of the sign and aimed downward. Such fixtures shall be automatically extinguished between the hours of 11 p.m. and dawn except as specifically approved by appropriate officers or agents of the Township.
  - k. Except as specifically approved by appropriate officers or agents of the Township, fixtures meeting IESNA "full-cutoff" criteria shall not be mounted in excess of twenty (20) feet above finished grade and fixtures not meeting IESNA "cutoff" criteria shall not be mounted in excess of sixteen (16) feet above grade.
  - l. Directional fixtures for such applications as façade, fountain, feature and landscape illumination shall be aimed so as not to project their output beyond the objects intended to be illuminated, shall be extinguished between the hours of 11 p.m. and dawn and shall not be in conflict with the Township's aim to maintain its rural character.
  - m. Service-station canopy lighting shall be accomplished using flat-lens full-cutoff downlighting fixtures, shielded in such a manner that the edge of the fixture shield shall be level with or below the light source envelope.
  - n. The use of white strobe lighting for tall structures such as smokestacks, chimneys and radio/communications/television towers is prohibited.
4. Installation
- a. For new installations, electrical feeds for fixtures mounted on poles shall be run underground, not overhead.
  - b. Poles supporting lighting fixtures for the illumination of parking areas and located directly behind parking spaces, shall be placed a minimum of five (5) feet outside paved area, or on concrete pedestals at least thirty (30) inches high above the pavement, or suitably protected by other approved means.
  - c. Lighting fixtures shall not be mounted in excess of twenty (20) feet above grade.



applicable Rules of Civil Procedure. Each day a violation exists shall constitute a separate offense.

2. The appropriate officers or agents of the Township are hereby authorized to seek legal and/or equitable relief, including injunction, to enforce compliance with this Ordinance.

J. Abatement of Nuisances

1. In addition to any other remedies provided in this Ordinance, any violation of Section D.3. hereof, Control of Nuisance and Disabling Glare, shall constitute a nuisance and shall be abated by the Township by either seeking mitigation of nuisance or appropriate equitable or legal relief from a court of competent jurisdiction, including enforcement under the Township Code or any adopted nuisance ordinance.

Effective Date: This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon enactment.

ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY MORRIS TOWNSHIP, CLEARFIELD COUNTY, THIS  
3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF January, 2005.

ATTEST:

Gladys Straw  
Gladys Straw, Secretary

John J. Saggus Jr.  
Chairman, Supervisor

Harold Morley  
V. Chairman, Supervisor

A. Thomas Lintch  
Supervisor