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Fire Prevention Bureau

Fire Pit Regulations

The requirements governing the use of fire pits and outdoor fireplaces are in place to ensure your safety, prevent fires and minimize the nuisance to neighbors.

Bonfires and other open-air fires are not allowed without a permit.

1. The fire must be contained in an approved and listed (for the use) non-combustible receptacle made of cement, brick, clay or sheet metal with a minimum 18 gauge thickness.
2. The fire box must be covered with heavy gauge metal screen and /or spark arrester with openings not larger than (1\2 inch) to contain sparks.
3. The size of the fire (total fuel area) of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height.
4. The fire pit must be located a minimum of 15 feet from any combustible material, such as buildings, sheds, fences, porches, decks etc.
5. Fire pits can not be placed on combustible porches, decks or balconies.
6. Fire pits must be situated on a non-combustible surface.
7. Fire pits shall be clear of overhangs, such as tree branches, utility lines, structures, etc.
8. Fire pits must be supervised by an adult at all times.
9. Any person who uses a fire pit shall have a means of extinguishing the fire readily accessible at all times. Garden hose, fire extinguisher, sand etc.
10. The only permitted fuels are charcoal, seasoned wood or manufactured fire logs.
11. Materials that cannot be burned include, but are not limited to: waste including rubbish, manure, treated or painted lumber, livestock or animal carcasses, tailings, garbage, garden refuse or scrap; any hazardous material or dangerous good; or any material that generates black smoke or an offensive odor, including insulation from electrical wiring, rubber tires, asphalt shingles, hydrocarbons, plastics and lumber treated with wood preservative.
12. Fire pits must be extinguished if smoke causes an unreasonable interference with the use and enjoyment, or becomes offensive or objectionable, when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make the fire hazardous.
13. Fire pits shall not be used in windy conditions.
14. In the event the Local, County, or State Fire Marshal issues a Fire Ban, the use of fire pits will be prohibited.
15. The Fire Prevention Bureau or authorized representative will investigate complaints to determine whether the fire pit complies with fire pit regulations and is being used properly. Fire Inspectors can order that the fire pit immediately be made to conform to such regulations or may order the fire pit to be extinguished. The Fire Inspector can also issue fines and penalties for creating dangerous conditions that may cause or contribute to the spread of fire.