



Fire Pits and Residential Recreational Fires – Summary of Regulations

THIS HANDOUT IS ONLY A GUIDE, ALL APPLICABLE VILLAGE CODE AND LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE ORDINANCES APPLY.

DEFINITIONS (for the purpose of this handout):

Bonfire: A grade level *recreational fire* not enclosed by a *fire pit*.

Fire Pit: Grade level, permanent or portable, outdoor enclosure or structure intended to contain and control recreational wood fires. Masonry and metal fire rings, fire pits, clay chimneys, patio hearths, fire tables and similar devices shall be regarded as *fire pits* when interpreting these regulations.

Open Burning: In general, *open burning* relates to such activities as burning of leaves, construction debris or other large fires built on the ground. Open burning regulations typically do not apply to recreational fires used for cooking, warmth, recreation, religious or ceremonial purposes. *Open burning* requires a written permit from the Fire District. (VC 5-5-2,307.1)

Open Flame Cooking Devices: Pre-fabricated metal appliance used for preparation and cooking of food.

Outdoor Fireplace: A permanent outdoor structure with a hearth and a chimney constructed out of masonry or a pre-fabricated metal firebox encased with approved building materials, intended to contain and control *recreational fires*. Outdoor fireplaces must be constructed per International Residential Code, Chapter 10.

Recreational Fire: An outdoor fire using wood, charcoal or gas as fuel, that has a total fuel area of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.

Recreational Fire Regulations (VC 5-5-2, 307.2)

	Permit Required ^(b)	Minimum Required Setback to Combustible Structures ^(a)	Minimum Required Setback to Property Lines	Permitted Location
Fire Pits	YES (Permanent Only)	15 Feet or per manufacturer listing	15 Feet	Rear Yard
Open Flame Cooking Devices (BBQ grills)	YES (Permanent Only)	15 Feet or per manufacturer listing	5 Feet	Rear Yard
Fireplaces	YES	Per IRC R302, and Chapter 10	5 Feet	Rear Yard
Bonfires	NO	25 Feet	25 Feet	Rear Yard

(a) Recreational fires shall not be located on top of or underneath any combustible structure unless specifically listed by manufacturer for such use and required clearance distance is listed by manufacturer and approved by the Building Official.

(b) Installation of permanent gas line or electrical requires separate permits to be submitted to Development Services for review and approval.

1. Only natural seasoned firewood, charcoal, natural/propane gas, or commercial logs may be burned in *recreational fires*.
2. *Recreational fires* must be attended and supervised by a competent adult property owner until the fire has been completely extinguished.
3. Conditions and sources that could ignite or cause a fire to spread shall not be located within 25 feet of structure.
4. A portable ten (10) pound ABC type fire extinguisher or other approved extinguishing equipment, such as a garden hose, bucket of sand, or dirt, must be readily available in close proximity to fire.
5. Any *recreational fire* which creates a hazardous or objectionable condition shall be prohibited. The code official is authorized to order the extinguishment of a fire creating a hazardous or objectionable condition. (VC 6-2-2-3)
6. Burning of garbage, leaves, construction materials, or any other refuse is not allowed. (VC 6-2-2-4)