

South Metro Fire Rescue Authority



Life Safety Bureau

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RECREATIONAL FIRES AND PORTABLE OUTDOOR FIREPLACES

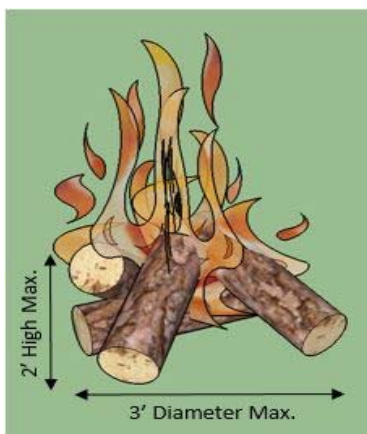
“Serving the communities of Castle Pines North, Centennial, Cherry Hills Village, Foxfield, Greenwood Village, Lone Tree, Louviers, Parker and unincorporated Arapahoe and Douglas Counties.”

Introduction:

This document contains the requirements of South Metro Fire Rescue Authority (SMFRA) for recreational fires and use of portable outdoor fireplaces at one- and two-family dwellings (including townhomes). Other entities (EPA, Health Departments, Municipalities, Homeowners' Associations, Sheriffs' Departments, etc.) may have additional requirements which are not included in this document. The party utilizing recreational fire or portable outdoor fireplaces is responsible for confirmation that their activity is not in conflict with any requirements or restrictions by other entities. The issuance of a permit by SMFRA (when required) does not relieve the permittee of liability for damages as a result of utilizing recreational fire or portable outdoor fireplaces.

Definitions:

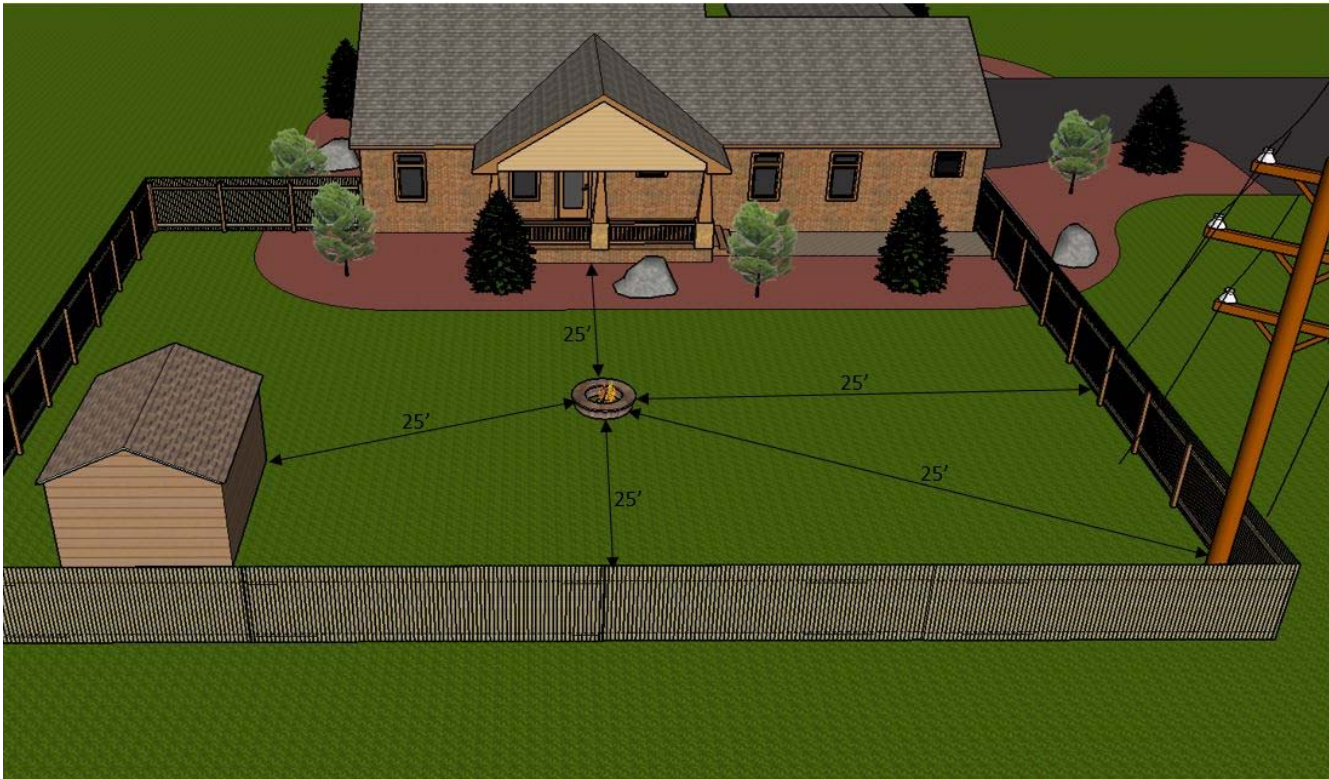
Recreational Fire: An outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, portable outdoor fireplace, barbeque grill or barbeque pit and has a total **fuel area** of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.



Portable Outdoor Fireplace: A portable, outdoor, solid-fuel-burning fireplace that may be constructed of steel, concrete, clay or other noncombustible material. A portable outdoor fireplace may be open in design, or may be equipped with a small hearth opening and a short chimney or chimney opening at the top.



Recreational Fire Location:



Recreational fires are **required** to be a minimum of 25' away from all combustible materials and structures, including houses, decks, fences, sheds, utility poles, etc. Other conditions which could cause a fire to spread to within 25' of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition. This could necessitate mowing and watering grass, trimming trees and shrubs, etc.

Portable Outdoor Fireplace Location:



Portable outdoor fireplaces do not have a required minimum clearance from structures and combustible materials, but are **recommended** to be operated at least 15' away from these things. Portable outdoor fireplaces must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions at all times.

Burn Restrictions and Permits:

Our goal at SMFRA is to allow the use of recreational fire and portable outdoor fireplaces while ensuring the safety of you, your neighbors, and our firefighters. For that reason, neither recreational fire nor portable outdoor fireplaces may be utilized during the following times:

1. When there is a **“Red Flag Warning”** issued by the National Weather Service:
<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/bou/>
2. When the Fire Weather Outlook for the day is “Elevated, Critical, or Extreme”:
http://www.spc.noaa.gov/products/fire_wx/fwdy1.html
3. When there is an open burning restriction issued by a county sheriff (for unincorporated areas) or elected representatives (for incorporated areas).
4. During periods of sustained or gusty winds that make the activity unsafe.

SMFRA will issue a permit and conduct a site inspection, free of charge, to any citizen of the district who wishes to utilize recreational fire. The purpose of the permit and inspection is to ensure safety as well as awareness and compliance with all regulations in this document. Recreational fire permits are issued for a period of three years as long as the conditions on your site remain the same, but these permits are not valid during the times listed above.

SMFRA does not issue permits or conduct site inspections for portable outdoor fireplaces, but does require compliance with all regulations in this document (note that clearances for outdoor fireplaces are **recommended**, but **not required**). Portable outdoor fireplaces may not be utilized during the times listed above.

Fire Department Notification:

Both before and after utilizing recreational fire or a portable outdoor fireplace, please contact our dispatch center at **720-258-8911** and notify them of your plans. This helps to avoid unnecessary emergency responses from neighbors who call regarding seeing smoke or flames.

If the fire extends beyond the area where you intended, call 911 IMMEDIATELY and report it!

Attendance:

Recreational fires and portable outdoor fireplaces shall be attended by an adult (18 years old, minimum) who has access to a telephone to notify the fire department if a problem develops. This attendance shall be constant and shall continue until the fire is completely extinguished. Means of extinguishing the fire shall be present at all times and shall include at least one of the following:

- A portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 5 lb. capacity and rated for Class A hazards.
- A garden hose with a spray nozzle and the valve opened.
- A 5 gallon bucket of water or sand (with shovel).
- Tractors or other heavy equipment capable of safely smothering the fire.

Permissible Fuels:

Firewood and other natural vegetation may be burned in recreational fires and portable outdoor fireplaces. Burning household goods or other trash is prohibited. Products which are specifically manufactured to assist with igniting fires may be used in accordance with the instructions on the packaging, including “fire logs” and charcoal lighter fluid. Use of gasoline and other flammable liquids is prohibited.

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