



Austin Fire Department

Emergency Prevention Division / Fire Marshall's Office

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Recreational Ground Fires

Portable Outdoor Fireplaces

Recreational Fires

- Fire must be at least 25 feet from structures and other combustible materials
- Fuel area may not exceed 3 feet in diameter may not exceed 2 feet in height
- Only solid fuels are allowed (no rubbish)
- Dry grass, leaves and other combustibles must be cleared for a minimum of 10 feet around the fire area
- Any condition which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure must be eliminated
- Fire must be constantly attended by a competent adult
- A portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating, or alternative means of extinguishment such as a garden hose, must be in place for immediate use
- Fires emitting smoke determined to be harmful to surrounding property owners, or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous, will be immediately extinguished

Portable Outdoor Fireplaces

- Must be at least 15 feet from structures and other combustible materials
- Only solid fuels are allowed (no rubbish)
- May be an open design or equipped with a small hearth opening and a short chimney or chimney opening in the top
- Must be used in accordance with manufacturers instructions
- Must be constantly attended by a competent adult
- A portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating, or alternative means of extinguishment such as a garden hose, must be in place for immediate use.
- Fires emitting smoke determined to be harmful to surrounding property owners, or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous, will be immediately extinguished

2009 IFC, as adopted by the City of Austin

Recreational Fires are defined in the Fire Code as:

“An outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, barbeque grill or barbeque pit and has a total fuel area of 3 feet (914 mm) or less in diameter and 2 feet (610 mm) or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.”

Open Burning is defined in the Fire Code as:

“... The burning of materials wherein products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber. Open burning does not include road flares, smudgepots and similar devices associated with safety or occupational uses typically considered open flames or recreational fires. For the purpose of this definition, a chamber shall be regarded as enclosed when, during the time combustion occurs, only apertures, ducts, stacks, flues or chimneys necessary to provide combustion air and permit the escape of exhaust gas are open.”

NOTE: All fires that fall under the definition of open burning require an open burn permit. Contact the Austin Fire Marshal’s office for information on how to obtain an open burn permit.