



FIRE-MEDICAL DEPT

Guideline

Date: January 10, 2017 (revised 04/15/2020)

To: All Users

From: City of Peoria Fire-Medical Department – Fire Prevention Division

Subject: Open Burning, Recreational Fires and Portable Outdoor Fireplaces

This guideline is based on the 2012 edition of the *International Fire Code*, Section 307 and will detail the requirements and restrictions for opening burning, recreational fires and the use of portable outdoor fireplaces within the City of Peoria. Permits may be required for some activities and must be obtained. Definitions from the Fire Code are provided at the end of this guideline.

WHEN IS OPEN BURNING PROHIBITED?

The burning of trash, paper, pallets, yard debris, leaves, scrap dimensional lumber, trees or any other rubbish is prohibited at anytime, anywhere within the City of Peoria.

Any burning involving wood or wood products when the Maricopa County Air Quality Department declares a “**No Burn Day**” is prohibited. Check their website at cleanairmakemore.com for more information.

Extinguishment authority is authorized when, in the opinion of the Fire Code Official or Fire Company Officer on scene, the open burning creates or adds to a hazardous situation, minimum safety requirements are not met or when a required permit has not been obtained.

WHEN IS A FIRE ALLOWED ON MY PROPERTY AND WHAT IS REQUIRED?

A recreational fire can be conducted on your property when it is conducted in compliance with the Fire Code regulations. The area cannot exceed three (3) feet in diameter. The fuel cannot be more than two (2) feet high and only wood can be burned. Any fire larger than these prescribed dimensions is considered a bon fire and requires a permit. The recreational fire must be located a minimum of twenty five (25) feet from a structure or combustible fuel source. The separation distance is measured on both yours and any adjoining property.

A portable outdoor fireplace can be used for burning. An exception in the Fire Code does not place a minimum separation distance between a portable outdoor fireplace and a structure or combustible material. This exception applies only to

one and two family dwellings. Only wood can be burned in the portable outdoor fireplace.

Any opening burning, recreational fire or use of a portable outdoor fireplace shall be constantly attended by a person, eighteen (18) years or age or older. A minimum of one (1) 4-A rated fire extinguisher or other approved on site fire extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel or garden hose shall be available for immediate utilization. The dirt or sand shall be in a nearby pile with a shovel. The water barrel shall be filled and shall include a bucket. The garden hose is to be connected to a water outlet and is to be long enough to reach the fire.

WHEN IS A PERMIT REQUIRED?

A permit is required from the Fire Department for a bonfire. Bonfires are restricted to planned events such as school activities, holiday celebrations and camp celebrations. The minimum separation distance from a structure or combustible material is fifty (50) feet. Check the Fire Department's Bonfire Guidelines for specifics and permitting information.

A permit is required from the Fire Department for recognized silviculture or range or wildlife management practices (i.e.: weed control, ditch burning, etc.), or the prevention or control of disease or pests. Permit applications and specifics are to be submitted to the Fire Prevention Office.

BONFIRE. An outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes.



OPEN BURNING. 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, recreational fires or use of portable outdoor fireplaces. 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.



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 in the top.



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, barbecue grill or barbecue 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.



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