



OUTDOOR FIREPLACE/FIRE PIT USE GUIDELINES

DEFINITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:

- **PORTABLE OUTDOOR FIREPLACES:** A portable, outdoor, solid-fuel-burning fireplace is typically constructed of steel, concrete, clay or other noncombustible material and may be open in design or equipped with a small hearth opening or chimney. (CFC 302.1) A MINIMUM OF 15' CLEARANCE from all buildings and/or combustible materials (landscaping, fences, wood piles, etc.) must be provided (CFC 307.4.3).
 - *EXCEPTION: This requirement does NOT apply to one and two-family dwellings.*
- **RECREATIONAL FIRES:** An outdoor fire for purposes of pleasure, religion, ceremony, cooking, warmth, etc. that burns 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 (914 mm) or less in diameter and 2 feet (610 mm) or less in height. (CFC 302.1) A MINIMUM OF 25' CLEARANCE from all buildings and/or combustible materials (landscaping, fences, wood piles, etc.) must be provided. (CFC 307.4.2)
- **BONFIRE (SPECIAL PERMIT REQUIRED):** An outdoor fire that is utilized for ceremonial purposes. (CFC 302.1) A MINIMUM OF 50' CLEARANCE from all buildings and/or combustible materials (landscaping, fences, wood piles, etc.) must be provided. (CFC307.4.1)
- **FIRE/BBQ PIT (SPECIAL PERMIT REQUIRED):** An excavated hole or cavity in the ground used to cook food (i.e. pig roasts, BBQ, etc.) A MINIMUM OF 20' CLEARANCE from all buildings and/or combustible materials (landscaping, fences, wood piles, etc.) must be provided. (CFC 102.9)
- **CLEAN WOOD** means natural wood which has not been: painted, varnished or coated with a similar material, pressure treated with preservatives and does not contain resins or glues as in plywood or other composite wood products.
- **RUBBISH/GARBAGE** means any waste material except clean wood.

NOTE: Special permits are required for some fires because of the amount of fire and smoke generated. The permit includes conditions for use to ensure everyone's safety and is essential to notify fire department dispatch to avoid false alarm responses. *The Fire Prevention Bureau must receive applications for permits a minimum of three (3) business days in advance of fire occurrence.* There is no cost for the permit.



PETALUMA FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU
11 English Street, Petaluma, California 94952
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www.cityofpetaluma.net/firedept/prevention.html

NOT PERMITTED:

- Burning of rubbish/garbage (*PMC 8.16.140, PMC 1.10 see definitions*)
- Burning of brush, tree trimmings, yard waste, etc. (*PMC 8.16.140, PMC 1.10 see definitions*)

REQUIRED FOR ALL FIRES

- A reliable source of water must be available for immediate use in the vicinity of the fire (garden hose, 5 gallon bucket of water, water press extinguisher, etc.) and must be able to reach around fire area. (*CFC 307.5*)
 - Only CLEAN WOOD may be burned. Charcoal may be burned for cooking fires.
 - While it is burning, the fire must be constantly attended by an adult. (*CFC 307.5*)
 - Weather, wind, humidity and time of day should be considered.
 - **COMPLAINTS OF ODOR OR SMOKE MAY NECESSITATE FIRE EXTINGUISHMENT. Please refer all smoke nuisance complaints to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District: www.baaqmd.gov, (415) 749-4900, 1-800-HELP-AIR**
- PETALUMA FIRE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT HANDLE SMOKE NUISANCE COMPLAINTS.**