



RECREATIONAL RESIDENTIAL OPEN-AIR FIRES

Fire Paramedic Service • Service d'incendie et de soins médicaux d'urgence  
Fire Prevention Branch • Direction de la prévention des incendies

The following regulatory guidelines shall be utilized for the location, installation and use of outdoor fire pits and outdoor solid fuel receptacles.

- 1) The outdoor fire pit or outdoor solid fuel receptacle shall be enclosed on all sides and constructed of masonry, concrete, heavy gauge metal or other noncombustible materials.
- 2) The outdoor fire pit shall be at least 15 cm (6 inches) in height above the surrounding grade, but no more than 60 cm (24 inches) in depth when measured from the top of the pit opening to the bottom of the pit.
- 3) The outdoor fire pit or outdoor solid fuel receptacle opening shall not exceed 750 mm (2.5 feet) in diameter or an area of .56 m<sup>2</sup> (6 ft<sup>2</sup>) and the width or length shall not be greater than 750 mm (2.5 feet).
- 4) The outdoor portable fire pit or outdoor solid fuel receptacle shall be located on a flat, level, noncombustible base and vertically clear of any overhead combustible materials such as eaves, tree branches, utility wires etc.
- 5) (a) A noncombustible spark arrestor, grill or mesh with openings no larger than 12 mm ( ½ " x ½ ") shall be used to cover the entire area of the outdoor fire pit.  
(b) The outdoor solid fuel fireplace chimney shall be equipped with a noncombustible spark arrestor, with openings no larger than 12 mm (½ "x ½ ") and cover the entire surface area of the chimney opening.
- 6) A minimum clearance of 3 meters (10 feet) measured from the nearest fire pit edge shall be maintained from any combustible buildings or sheds or other combustible structures such as fences, trees, hydro poles. A minimum distance of 3 meters (10 feet) shall also be maintained from neighboring property lines.
- 7) Outdoor solid fuel receptacles shall be installed as per the manufacturer's instructions if available and shall conform to all required clearances to combustible structures or materials. In no instance shall the required clearance be less than 3 meters (10 feet).
- 8) When in use, outdoor fire pits and outdoor solid fuel receptacles shall be continuously supervised by an adult.
- 9) Outdoor fire pits and outdoor solid fuel receptacles shall not be utilized during wind conditions exceeding 25 kilometers per hour (15 miles per hour) or during extreme drought conditions whereby such utilization may cause an undue fire hazard.
- 10) Only clean, dry wood or charcoal briquettes may be burned in outdoor fire pits and outdoor solid fuel receptacles. Outdoor fire pits or outdoor solid fuel receptacles may not be utilized for the burning of garbage, rubbish, debris, previously painted or treated wood or any other fuel which when burned, may result in the release of dense smoke, or obnoxious odors.
- 11) A means of extinguishment such as a portable fire extinguisher, pail of water, sand or garden hose shall be readily available on site. All fires must be completely extinguished before leaving the site.
- 12) Do not burn wet or damp wood which may contribute greatly to heavy smoke propagation.
- 13) All fires must be limited in size so that they are readily controllable. If at any time the fire extends beyond the outdoor fire pit or outdoor solid fuel receptacle, call the **Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service at 911**.