



Village of Arlington Heights
Building & Life Safety Department
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Guideline for Outdoor Burning, Fireplaces, and Cooking

A **BONFIRE** is an outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes, pleasure, cooking, warmth or similar purposes having a total fuel area greater than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height. **Operational permits are required by the Building and Life Safety Department for all bonfires.**

A **RECREATIONAL FIRE** is 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.

A **PORTABLE OUTDOOR FIREPLACE** is 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. Portable outdoor fireplaces shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material. **Use is allowable for detached single family dwellings only.**

A person shall not kindle or maintain or authorize to be kindled or maintain any open burning unless conducted and approved in accordance with the following:

- a. Open burning that is offensive or objectionable because of smoke emissions or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited.
- b. Fuel for open burning shall consist only of seasoned firewood and shall be ignited with a small quantity of paper. **The fire shall not be utilized for waste disposal purposes. No yard waste (grass, brush, etc) or rubbish may be burned.**
- c. A bonfire shall not be conducted within 50 feet of a structure or combustible material.
- d. Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

Open burning, bonfires, recreational fires and use of portable outdoor fireplaces shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating or other approved on-site fire-extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck, shall be available for immediate utilization.

Permanent Outdoor Fireplaces require a Building Permit for construction and must meet appropriate construction and location requirements. Fireplace is defined as a hearth and fire chamber or similar prepared place in which a fire may be made and which is built in conjunction with a chimney.

Charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction except for one- and two-family dwellings and where buildings, balconies, and decks are protected by an automatic sprinkler system.