



# FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

## INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

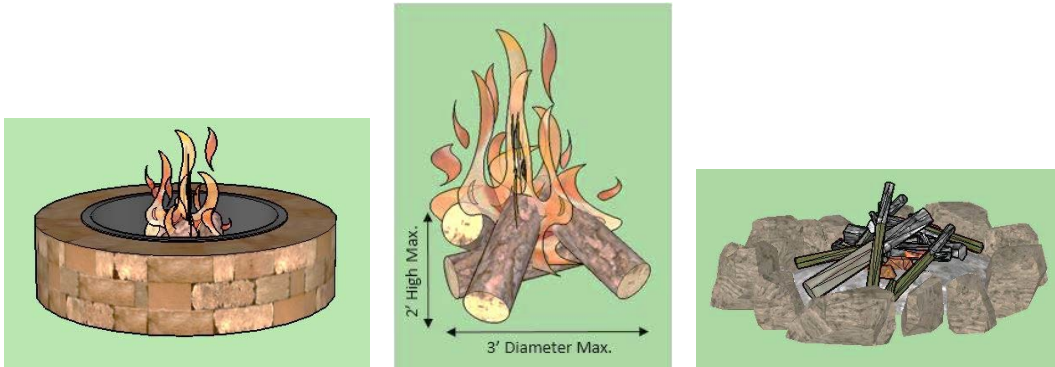
### RE: RECREATIONAL FIRES AND PORTABLE OUTDOOR FIREPLACES

#### INTRODUCTION:

This document contains the requirements of Los Alamos Fire Department (LAFD) Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) for recreational fires and use of portable outdoor fireplaces at one- and two-family dwellings (including townhomes). Other entities (EPA, Health Departments, Homeowners' Associations, Sheriffs' Departments, etc.) may have additional requirements which are not included in this document. The party utilizing recreational fire or portable outdoor fireplaces is responsible for confirmation that their activity is not in conflict with any requirements or restrictions by other entities. The issuance of a permit by LAFD-FMO (when required) does not relieve the permittee of liability for damages as a result of utilizing recreational fire or portable outdoor fireplaces.

#### DEFINITIONS

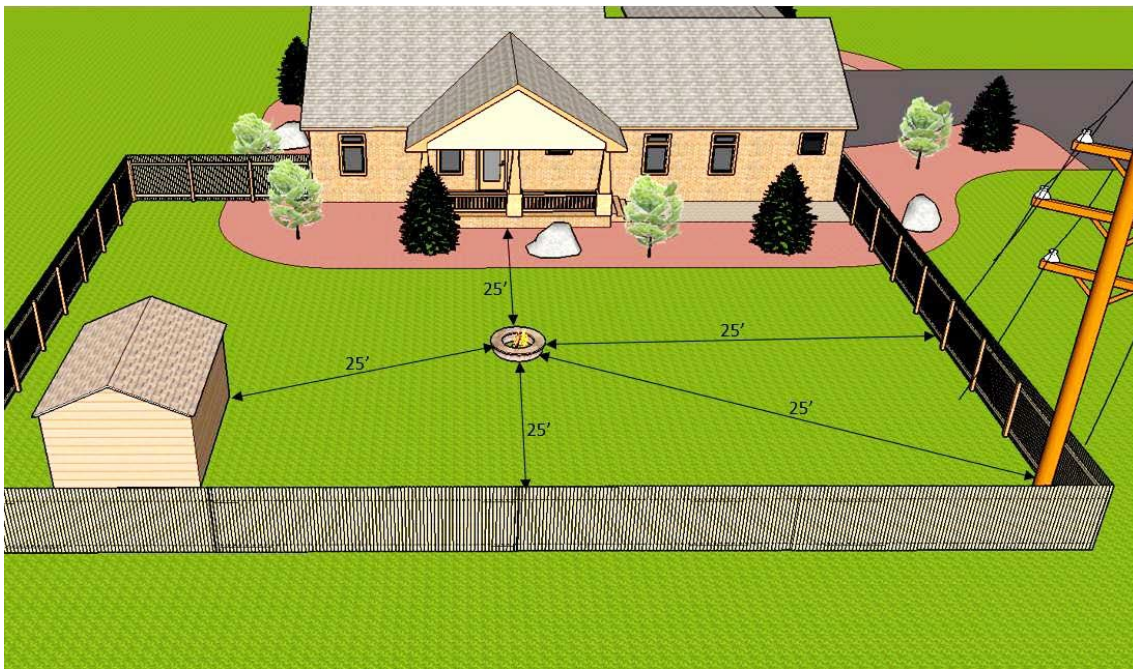
**Recreational Fire:** An outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, portable outdoor fireplace, barbeque grill or barbeque pit and has a total **fuel area** of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.



**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 at the top.

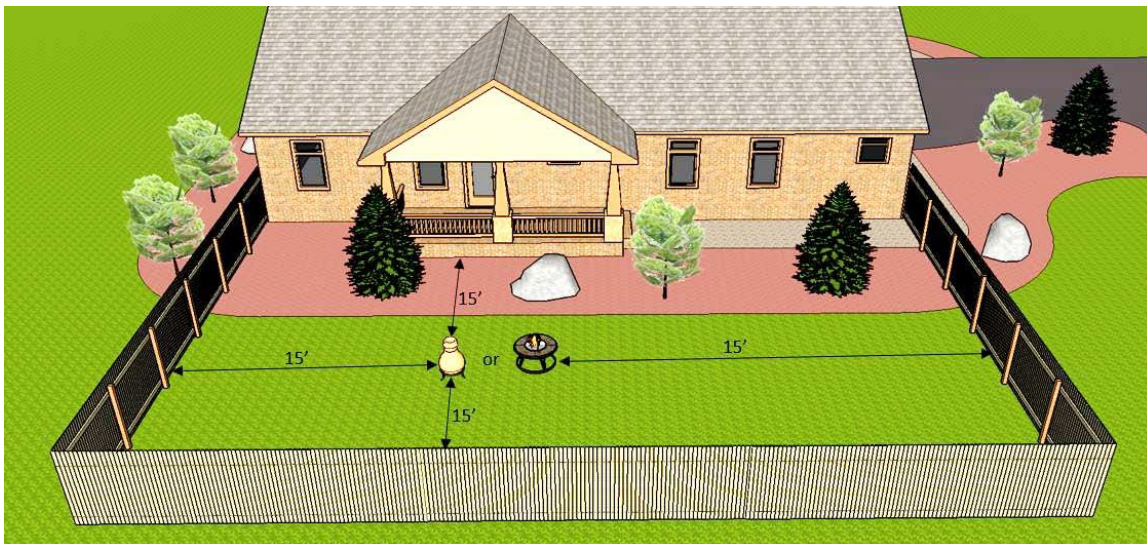


## RECREATIONAL FIRE LOCATION



Recreational fires are **required** to be a minimum of 25' away from all combustibile materials and structures, including houses, decks, fences, sheds, utility poles, etc. Other conditions which could cause a fire to spread to within 25' of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition. This could necessitate mowing and watering grass, trimming trees and shrubs, etc.

## PORTABLE OUTDOOR FIREPLACE LOCATION



Portable outdoor fireplaces do not have a required minimum clearance from structures and combustibile materials but are **recommended** to be operated at least 15' away from these things. Portable outdoor fireplaces must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions at all times.



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#### BURN RESTRICTIONS AND PERMITS

Our goal at LAFD-FMO is to allow the use of recreational fire and portable outdoor fireplaces while ensuring the safety of you, your neighbors, and our firefighters. For that reason, neither recreational fire nor portable outdoor fireplaces may be utilized during the following times:

1. When there is a "Red Flag Warning" issued by the National Weather Service.
2. When the Fire Weather Outlook for the day is "Elevated, Critical, or Extreme"
3. When there is an open burning or staged fire restriction issued by a Fire Marshal.
4. During periods of sustained or gusty winds that make the activity unsafe, i.e. if sparks, smoke or occasional emitting ember are flowing horizontal or sideways with wind direction, this condition is unsafe.

The Fire Marshal's Office does not issue permits, nor conduct regular site inspections for portable outdoor fireplaces, rings, barbeques, but does require compliance with all regulations in this document (*note that clearances for outdoor fireplaces is **recommended**, but **not required***). In addition, a spark arrestor screen for both recreational and portable outdoor fireplaces is **recommended**, but **not required**. **A courtesy site inspection can be requested by the homeowner.**

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT NOTIFICATION

To avoid unnecessary emergency responses from neighbors who call regarding seeing smoke or flames it is advisable **to call before and after utilizing recreational fire or a portable outdoor fireplace, by contacting the non-emergent central dispatch at 505-662-8222 to notify them of your plans.**

**If the fire extends beyond the area where you intended, call 911 IMMEDIATELY and report it!**

#### ATTENDANCE

Recreational fires and portable outdoor fireplaces shall be attended by an adult (18 years old, minimum) who has access to a telephone / cellphone to notify the fire department if a problem develops. Attendance shall be constant and shall continue until the fire is completely extinguished. Means of extinguishing the fire shall always be present and shall include at least one of the following:

- A portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 5 lb. capacity and rated for class A hazards.
- A garden hose with a spray nozzle and the valve opened.
- A 5-gallon bucket of water or sand (with shovel).
- Tractors or other heavy equipment capable of safely smothering the fire.

#### PERMISSIBLE FUELS

Firewood (dry, seasoned) and other natural vegetation may be burned in recreational fires and portable outdoor fireplaces. Burning household goods or other trash and leaves in the fall is prohibited. Products which are specifically manufactured to assist with igniting fires may be used in accordance with the instructions on the packaging, including "fire logs" and charcoal lighter fluid. **Use of gasoline and other flammable liquids is prohibited.**