

FIRE DEPARTMENT INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

FIRE PITS (Portable Outdoor Fireplaces)

DEFINITION

Portable solid fuel-burning fireplaces designed to provide ambience and warmth in outdoor settings that may be constructed of steel, concrete, clay or other noncombustible material. They may be open in design, or may be equipped with a small hearth opening and a short chimney or chimney opening in the top.

FIRE CODE REQUIREMENTS

- 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.
Exception: Portable outdoor fireplaces used at one- and two-family dwellings.

- Outdoor fireplaces that are permanently installed in the ground shall meet the following requirements:
 1. Not be larger than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height.
 2. Be constructed of steel, concrete, or other noncombustible material.
 3. Shall be at least 25 feet from a structure, deck, or combustible material.
 4. All other regulations apply.

1. Fire Department Permits are not required but specific requirements apply to each use.
2. You must have permission of the landowner.
3. Permission of HOA in multi-unit residential buildings prior to use is required.
4. Any burning shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished.
5. Dispose of all ashes in a safe manner.
6. Burning of materials which may produce dangerous, noxious, or toxic fumes, smoke, odors, or which may be considered dangerous to the health and general welfare of the people of the city are prohibited.
7. Burning shall be prohibited when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous. Remember that wind carries embers and can spread fires.
8. One portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating, or a garden hose connected to a constant water source available close by shall be available for immediate utilization.

Code Reference: 2018 International Fire Code Section 307; Code of Ordinances City of Gulf Shores, AL.

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