

RECREATIONAL FIRES

The *International Fire Code* as amended and adopted by the City of Rockford adopted the and as : An outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish a total fuel area of 3 feet(914 mm) or less in diameter and 2 feet (610 mm) or less in height for **cooking food** for human consumption.

The Division of fire Prevention has attempted to keep recreational fires under control by:

Limiting the size of the recreational cooking fire to no larger than 2' x 2' x 2' using seasoned, dry firewood only (about 4 logs){used for cooking purposes only}.

Burn at a reasonable hour (no later than 10:30 – 11:00 PM) and for a reasonable length of time (3 hours).

Check with all neighbors (courtesy and health or environmental issues).

Have a hose or fire extinguisher present to extinguish the fire.

Consider weather conditions (wind, dry conditions, etc.) If a complaint is received and any of the above conditions are violated, the fire will be extinguished and the report forwarded to Fire prevention for legal action. Remember that a recreational fire is for cooking food, not a campfire.

OUTDOOR FIREPLACES

There have been many questions fielded in reference to the numerous types of outdoor fireplaces, fire rings and burning dishes. The most frequently asked question is: “Are these illegal?” and/or “Why do you allow them to be sold in Rockford?”

These items are not illegal; however, the recreational fire conditions apply, meaning they may be used for cooking purposes only. These items are sold in Rockford because they are not illegal and the market area is much larger than the City of Rockford and other communities may not have the same restrictions or conditions.



OUTDOOR FIREPLACES continued...

Therefore, the use of these types of items for recreational fires, outside of cooking, is not allowed and should be extinguished. Requesting the owner to voluntarily extinguish the fire is the best way to handle this situation. If the owner refuses to willingly comply, extinguish the fire. If the owner becomes unruly, request a police officer to respond, and if necessary, a fire investigator, and refer the matter to the Division of Fire Prevention for follow-up.



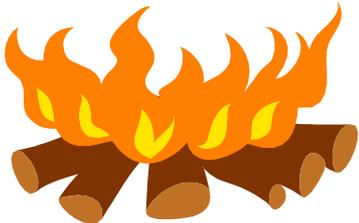
BONFIRES

The definition of a bonfire by the City of Rockford as adopted *International Fire Code*: An outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes. A bonfire shall not be more than 5 feet (1524 mm) by 5 feet (1524 mm) by 5 feet (1524 mm) in dimension and shall not burn longer than 3 hours.

A bonfire shall not be conducted within 50 feet (15 240 mm) of a structure of combustible material . Conditions which would cause a fire to spread within 50 feet (15 240 mm) of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

Material. Fuel for a bonfire shall consist only of seasoned dry firewood and other material approved by the code official. The bonfire shall be ignited with a small quantity of paper. The fire shall not be utilized for waste disposal purposes, and the fuel shall be chosen to minimize the generation of air contaminants.

Permit. All permits, required by the IFC, shall be requested by and issued to the owner of the land upon which the bonfire is to be kindled.



Conditions:

1. Must have a permit issued by the Division of Fire Prevention.
2. Fire must be monitored at all times (person in attendance) with extinguishment plans in place.
3. Consider weather conditions (wind, dry conditions, etc.)

If we are dispatched to a bonfire,

1. Ask to see a valid permit.
2. If no valid permit has been issued, extinguish the fire and send the report to the Division of Fire Prevention for follow-up and/or legal action.
3. Even if a valid permit has been issued and conditions #2 or #3 above have been violated then the permit can be revoked and the fire should be extinguished

PRAIRIE BURNS

Permits are issued for prairie land burns. These permits are only issued with written approval from the Environmental Protection Agency, City of Rockford Legal and Fire Departments. There are specific instructions for the people conducting the burn as to extinguishment, safety, notification of burns, and times burn is permitted. If you are dispatched to a “prairie burn”, first, ask to see the permit, second, if no permit, notify Fire Prevention or Dispatch Center. If it is confirmed the fire is not permitted, extinguish the fire and send the report to the Division of Fire Prevention for follow-up and/or legal action.

FAQ's Regarding Out Door Burning



What is allowed?

What is Not allowed?

What can I burn?

What can't I burn?