

**REQUIREMENTS FOR
OPEN BURNING, RECREATIONAL FIRES AND
PORTABLE OUTDOOR FIREPLACES**
A summary of Section 307 of the 2012 International Fire Code

Code requirements for open burning are intended to protect the public from irresponsible burning when it endangers the safety, health and welfare of persons near the burn site.

The Tinley Park Fire Department adopted fire codes defining and regulating outdoor burning in the Village of Tinley Park. The following are guidelines on how to properly conduct open burning. In general, a person shall not kindle, maintain or authorize to be kindled, or maintain any open burning unless conducted in an approved manner.

DEFINITIONS

- **Bonfires:** An outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes. *A permit is required.*
- **Open Burning:** The burning of materials where products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber. *A permit is required.*
- **Portable Outdoor Fireplace:** A portable, out-door, 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 in the top. *No permit is required.*
- **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. *No permit is required.*

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Hazardous and Objectionable Conditions:** Open burning shall be prohibited when atmospheric conditions (wind, temperature and relative humidity), local circumstances and the use of inappropriate materials make such fires hazardous.
- **Approval Required for Prescribed Burning or Bonfires**
A permit shall be obtained from the Fire Prevention Bureau for open burning fires, range or wildlife management practices, prevention or control of disease or pests, or a bonfire. Application for such approval shall only be presented by and permits issued to the owner of the land upon which the fire is to be kindled.
- **Authorization**
Depending on the nature of the open burning, other governmental agencies (land use, environmental protection etc.) may have laws or regulations. Open burning shall only be permitted with prior approval from the state or local air and water quality management authority, provided that all conditions specified in the authorization are followed.
- **Extinguishment Authority**
When open burning creates or adds to a hazardous situation, or a required permit for open burning has not been obtained, the fire code official, Police or Code Enforcement Officers are authorized to order the extinguishment of the open burning operation.

For Additional Information Contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at 708-444-5200

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- **Distance to Combustibles/Structures**

- Bonfires/Open Burning

A bonfire or open burning can not be conducted within 50 feet of a structure or combustible material unless the fire is contained in a barbecue pit. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 50 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

- Portable outdoor fireplaces

Portable outdoor fireplaces must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and can not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material.

- Recreational fires

Recreational fires can 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.

- **Attendance**

Any open burning including 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 complying with a minimum 4-A rating or other approved onsite fire extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, garden hose shall be available for immediate utilization.

ENFORCEMENT

- In making the determination as to whether a fire is hazardous or objectionable, Fire personnel, Police personnel or Code Enforcement personnel shall make reasonable resolve considering such factors as safety, the presence of responsible person monitoring the fire, types of materials burned, the emission of dense smoke or objectionable odor and wind/weather conditions that may impact other persons or the safety of the fire.

OTHER JURISDICTIONAL RESOURCES/REQUIREMENTS

The following jurisdictional resources may have additional or more restrictive open burning requirements.

- Village of Tinley Park Ordinance 2016-O-076; Section 98.02J - *In summary, causing or permitting any open burning of garbage or other discarded solid materials or cause or allow the burning of garbage or other discarded solid materials in any chamber not approved by the State of Illinois Pollution Control Board or Environmental Protection Agency shall be deemed a nuisance.* (<http://www.tinleypark.org/>)
- Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (<http://www.epa.illinois.gov/topics/forms/air-permits/open-burning/index>)
- Cook County (www.cookcountyil.gov/service/open-burning-permit)
- Will County (http://www.willcountygovern.com/initiatives/enforcementnuisance_fires.aspx)

Examples of Approved Methods for Outdoor Burning

Recreational Fire



Portable Outdoor Fireplace



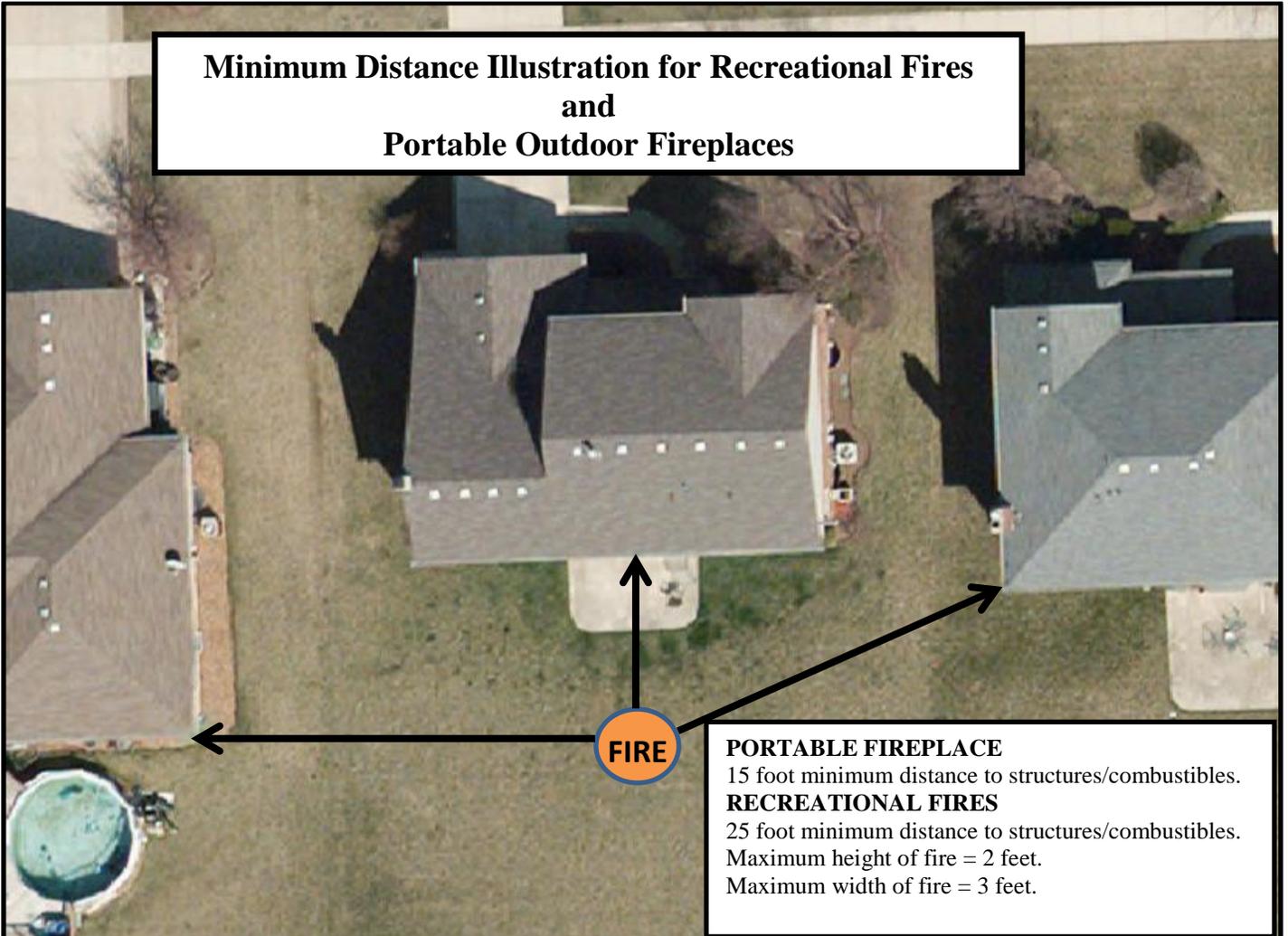
Portable Outdoor Fireplace



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**Minimum Distance Illustration for Recreational Fires
and
Portable Outdoor Fireplaces**



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Portable Fireplace Safety



There is nothing like sitting by an open fire on a cold night. Indoor and outdoor portable ethanol burning fireplaces have become more popular in recent years. While these products provide ambiance and a little warmth, keep in mind the fuel, device and open flame can be dangerous.

Fireplace Safety

- » A portable ethanol burning fireplace, and the fuel, should only be used by adults.
- » Clean up any fuel spillage and be sure all liquid has evaporated before lighting the fireplace.
- » Light the fireplace using a utility lighter or long match.
- » An adult should always be present when a portable fireplace is burning.
- » Place the fireplace on a sturdy surface away from table edges.
- » It's a good idea to crack a window open for a fresh supply of air.
- » Never try to move a lit fireplace or one that is still hot.
- » Don't pour ethanol fuel in a device that is lit or not completely cool. It may result in a fire or injury.
- » Allow the device to cool down for at least 15 minutes before refueling.
- » Extinguish the flame when you leave the room, home or go to sleep.

General Fire Safety

- Keep anything that can burn, children and pets at least 3 feet from the fireplace.
- Store lighters and matches out of the reach of children, in a locked cabinet.

Ethanol Fuel Smarts

Store ethanol fuel in a closed container, away from the fireplace and out of the reach of children.

It may not be easy to see the ethanol fuel flame. Always close the lid or use a snuffer to be sure the flame is extinguished before refueling into a cooled fireplace.

Use only fuel made specifically for the fireplace.



FACT

Ethanol is a plant-based product that does not release new carbon monoxide into the air.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169