

# OUTDOOR BURNING



## Guidelines for Bonfires, Open Burning, Recreational Fires, Consumer Fireworks, Burn Restrictions and Burn Bans

### Bonfires

A bonfire is an outdoor fire used for ceremonial purposes as outlined in the 2009 International Fire Code Section 307.4.1. All bonfires **require a permit** from the Division of the Fire Marshal. They must not have a total fuel area greater than 8 feet in diameter and must be less than 6 feet in height. Permitted bonfires must be at least 50 feet away from a structure or combustible materials and must **not** at any point move any closer to the structure than the stated 50 foot distance.

### Open Burning

**Open burning is NOT allowed within the City of Colorado Springs.** Examples of fires that are classified as open burning are ditch burning, fires used for silviculture (forestry purposes), range or wildlife management, the prevention and or control of disease or pests.

Only city, county, state and federal agencies with an approved Prescribed Burn Plan and Hazardous Activity Permit are allowed to conduct this type of activity.

### Recreational Fires

**Recreational fires are allowed within the City of Colorado Springs in accordance with the guidelines outlined below and in the absence of a burn restriction or burn ban.** A recreational fire is an outdoor fire where materials other than rubbish are being burned and it is not contained in a permanent fixture (incinerator, outdoor fireplace, BBQ grill). The 2009 International Fire Code 302 defines these fires as being intended for cooking, warmth, religious, ceremonial or other special purposes. They must not have a total fuel area greater than 3 feet in diameter and must be less than 2 feet in height.

This type of fire must be at least 25 feet away from a structure or combustible materials and must **not** at any point move any closer to the structure than the stated 25 foot distance.

### Fireplaces

Portable or fixed outdoor fireplaces (wood, propane or natural gas) must be at least 15 feet away from a structure or combustible materials except for 1-and 2-family dwellings. However, during a burn ban ALL solid fuels (such as wood or charcoal) are prohibited.

### Consumer Fireworks

All types of fireworks with a fuse and or requiring a flame for ignition are **ILLEGAL in Colorado Springs.** Only novelty items (snappers and poppers) are allowed. A fire started by fireworks that threatens or damages property is a crime of Arson. Possession, use and or the sale of fireworks is subject to a fine up to and including \$500 and or up to 90 days in jail. Professional public and private firework displays are regulated, permitted and approved on a case-by-case basis by the Division of the Fire Marshal under city code 1.1.201-General Penalties.

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## Enacting Burn Restrictions and Burn Bans

The Fire Marshal has the authority to enact a Burn Restriction or Burn Ban for the City of Colorado Springs. Criteria used to determine when these conditions are initiated include: weather, fuel moistures, cooperators status, local and regional fire activity and national preparedness levels (which influences suppression aircraft availability). These elements are closely monitored by the Wildfire Mitigation Administrator and Fire Marshal . When predetermined criteria are met the appropriate condition is implemented. Immediate public notifications are made to the media through press releases and on the city website. The chart below outlines what is **allowed** during Burn Restrictions and Burn Bans:

	Burn Restrictions	Burn Ban
Blasting, Welding and Torches	Yes, by permit ONLY	Yes, by permit ONLY
Bonfires	No	No
Model Rockets	Yes, by permit ONLY	No
Open / Prescribed Burning	No	No
Outdoor Smoking	Smoking materials must be disposed of in a non-combustible container	Smoking materials must be disposed of in a non-combustible container
Recreational Fires	No	No
Fireplaces (portable and fixed)	Yes	No (except for propane or natural gas)
Outdoor Cooking	Yes	Yes (except in <b>Regional City Parks and Open Spaces</b> )

## Burn Restriction and Burn Ban Penalties

Person(s) failing to comply with a Burn Restriction or Burn Ban shall be punished in accordance with the general penalty of the Code of the City of Colorado Springs as amended (1.1.201). A careless fire that threatens or damages property is fourth degree arson and shall be prosecuted as such.

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Can city residents burn leaves or trash outdoors?** No this is an illegal activity. Violations should be reported to the CSFD Division of the Fire Marshal @ 385-5978.
2. **Is burning trash in a fireplace allowed in the city?** No—debris or trash burning is not allowed.