



South Adams County FIRE DISTRICT

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Fire Pits, Outdoor Fireplaces, Bonfires and Recreational Fires

The following are guidelines for using Fire Pits, Outdoor Fireplaces, Bonfires and Recreational Fires within the South Adams County Fire District (SACFD). These requirements are based on the **2018 International Fire Code (IFC)** as adopted by SACFD, the City of Commerce City, and Adams County. Other agencies such as the EPA, Tri-County Health Department, Homeowner Associations, or the Adams County Sheriff's Office may have additional rules or requirements which are not stated herein.

Requirements

(IFC 307.1.1) Prohibited Open Burning: Open burning shall be prohibited when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous. Be aware of the ever-changing wind conditions.

(IFC 307.2.1) Authorization: Where required by state or local law 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. ***An Operational Permit is required to be obtained from the Fire Prevention Bureau for a Bonfire and a Recreational fire please contact (303) 288-0835.***

(IFC 307.3) Extinguishment Authority: Where open burning creates or adds to a hazardous situation, or a required permit for open burning has not been obtained, the *fire code official* is authorized to order the extinguishment of the open burning operation.

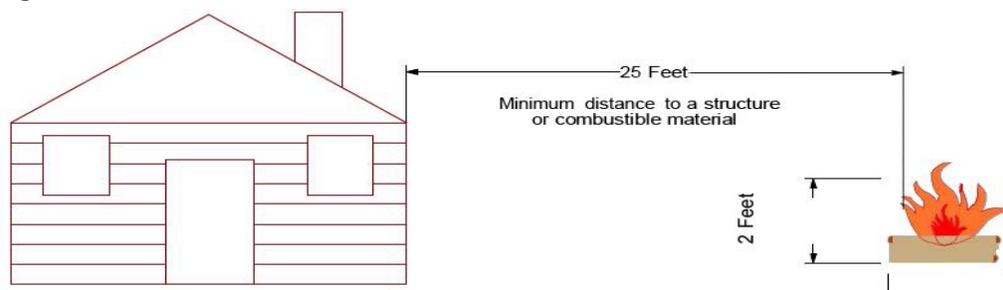
Definition of a Bonfire: An Outdoor Fire utilized for ceremonial purposes.

(IFC 307.4.1) Bonfires: A bonfire shall not be conducted within **50 feet** (15 240 mm) of a structure or combustible material unless the fire is contained in a barbecue pit. Conditions that could cause a fire to spread within **50 feet** (15 240 mm) of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

Definition of a 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.

(IFC 307.4.2) Recreational Fires (fires not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, portable outdoor fireplace, barbeque grill or barbeque pit):

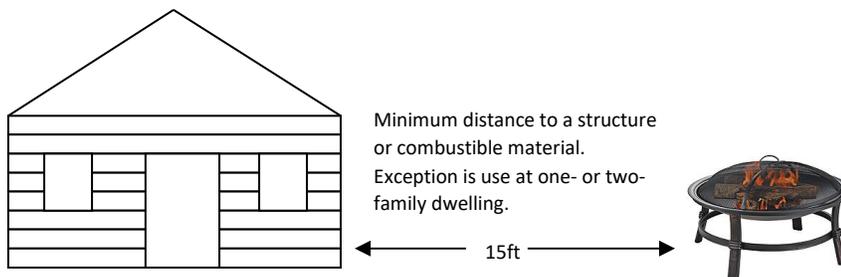
- Shall not be conducted within **25 feet** from a structure or other combustible material. Conditions that could cause a fire to spread within **25 feet** of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.



Definition of a 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 a chimney opening in the top.

(IFC 307.4.3) Portable Outdoor Fireplaces:

- Shall be used in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions
- Residents of the South Adams County Fire District may construct their own outdoor fire pit under limited circumstances. Before construction starts it is recommended a site plan of the outdoor fire pit be drawn and reviewed with the Fire Prevention Division. Additionally, the outdoor fire pit must be constructed of masonry, concrete, stone or heavy gage steel. The fire pit shall not exceed 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height.
- Shall not be operated within **15 feet** of a structure or combustible material
 - **Exception to the 15 feet distance is a portable outdoor fireplace used at One- and Two-Family Dwellings.**



Approved Portable Outdoor Fireplace and Fire Pit Examples:



Outdoor Fireplace



Portable Fire Pit



Aboveground Fire Pit



Chiminea

(IFC 307.5) Attendance: Open burning, bonfires, recreational fires and use of portable outdoor fireplaces shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. Not fewer than one portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating or other *approved* on-site fire-extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck, shall be available for immediate utilization.