

# SCAPPOOSE FIRE DISTRICT RECREATIONAL BURNING GUIDELINES

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# RECREATIONAL FIRES

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A recreational fire is a fire at your residence that is used for the purpose of cooking, warming, or similar recreation. It is **not** backyard debris burning which is regulated by DEQ.

## Frequently asked questions?

### Do I need a permit for my recreational fire?

No. You just need to follow these guidelines. You do not even have to call us and tell us you are having a recreational fire.

A permit **is required** for large bonfires or recreational fires for ceremonies or religious activities.

### Can I build a permanent fire pit on my private property?

Yes, the dimensions should be no larger than 3 feet inside diameter. It should be made of rock, brick or similar non-combustible materials.

### What am I allowed to burn in my recreational fire?

You can only burn dry firewood or use charcoal. Wood must be contained inside the fire container.

### Are there times I cannot have a recreational fire?

Recreational fires are not allowed during extreme dry weather or when windy conditions exist. Conditions will be made public on TV and radio, or will be posted locally. A special message will be on our burn line 503-543-3590.

You may still have a recreational fire even if it is a no burn day for backyard burning.

## Can I have a large bonfire on my private property?

No, your fire needs to stay small enough that it can be controlled. It may not be larger than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height from the deepest area.

If you require a larger bonfire for a special one-time event, please contact the Fire District office for a permit and to schedule an inspection of the site. Large bonfires must be placed at least 50 feet from any structure.

## Can I have an open campfire on my private property?

Yes, as long as it is at least 25 feet away from any structure or other combustibles. You need to make sure the area around the fire is cleared of anything that could catch fire (dry grass, dry brush). Any conditions that could cause a fire to spread to a structure or field shall be removed prior to ignition. The campfire has to be in a designated or self-made fire pit, in a landscaped area; not in the woods.

## Can I use an outdoor fireplace, fire pit or chimenea on my residential property?

Yes, It should be located at least 15 to 25 feet from a structure and needs to set on a non-combustible surface (dirt, sand bricks, cement, etc.)

## Can I use a chimenea or fire bowl on my wood deck?

The Fire District **does not** recommend doing so. Always follow the manufacturer fire safety instructions.



## TIPS FOR SAFE BURNING

- ✘ Fire needs to be in a designated fire pit or landscaped area.
- ✘ Make sure there is a responsible person constantly present.
- ✘ Have fire extinguisher, water or sand nearby to extinguish.
- ✘ Keep fire smaller than 3 feet in diameter and don't let flames rise higher than 2 feet high.
- ✘ Extinguish fire completely.

If the fire becomes a hazard to life or property, it shall be extinguished immediately. Drown the fire with water. Make sure all embers, coals, and sticks are wet. Fire shall be constantly attended until the fire is fully extinguished.

**If this brochure doesn't answer your specific question or address your need, please call our office for additional information. 503-543-5026**