



RECREATIONAL FIRE AND PORTABLE OUTDOOR FIREPLACES



If any fire extends beyond the area where you intended, call 911 IMMEDIATELY and report it!

This document explains the Fire Code requirements enforced by Loveland Fire Rescue Authority (LFRA) for recreational fire and use of portable outdoor fireplaces at one- and two-family dwellings, including townhomes. Other entities (county health departments, municipalities, homeowners' associations, sheriffs' offices, etc.) may have additional requirements not included in this document. Homeowners utilizing recreational fire or portable outdoor fireplaces are responsible to research additional requirements to ensure their activity is not in conflict with any other requirements or restrictions.

LFRA does not issue permits nor conduct site inspections for portable outdoor fireplaces or recreational fires, but does require compliance with all regulations in this document and manufacturers' directions.

Definitions

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, used for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.



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 chimney opening at the top.



General Safety Requirements

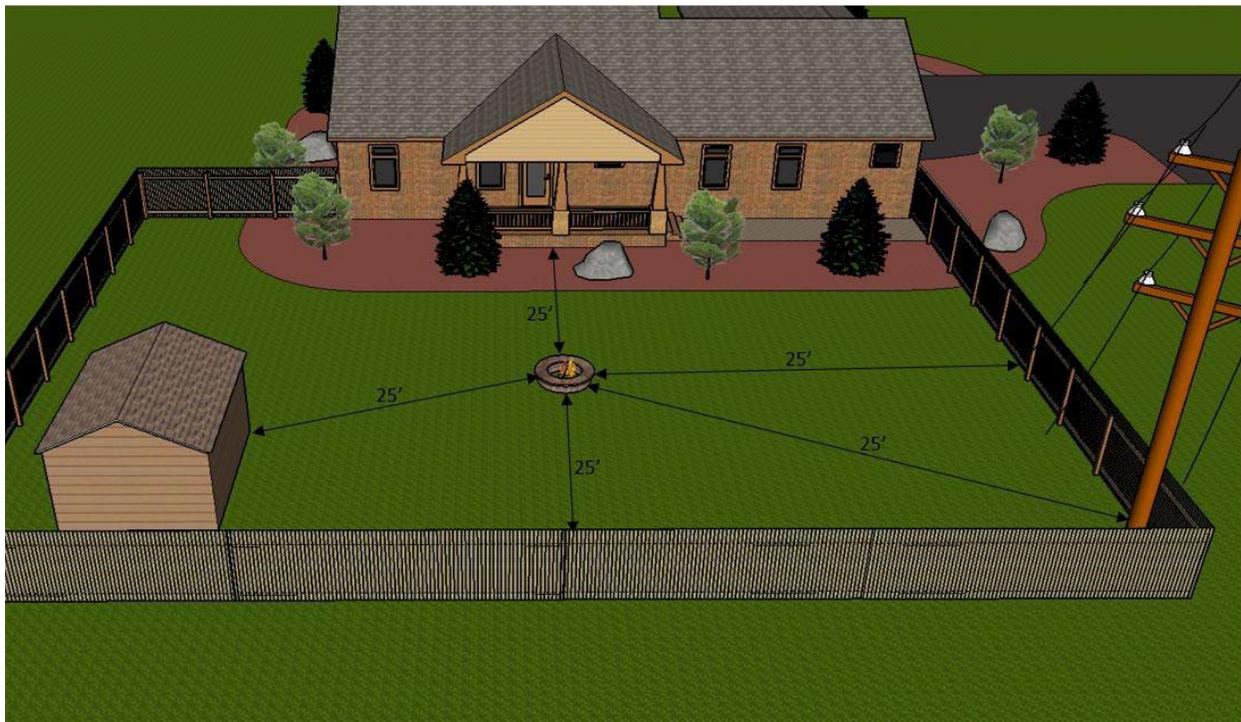
Outdoor recreational burning is allowed at one- and two-family homes only when contained within a manufactured, portable outdoor fire pit; outside fireplace; permanent fire pit; or a chiminea. All wood-burning appliances must utilize a screen or spark arrestor. A permit is **not** required to operate these devices.

A hole dug in the dirt is not acceptable and not allowed.

All outdoor wood-burning appliances shall be maintained in good repair at all times and situated on a clear and level surface so that the appliance cannot tip over.

Outdoor fire pits or fireplaces fueled by a permanent gas line require a permit issued by the applicable building department (City of Loveland, Town of Johnstown or Larimer County).

Recreational Fire Location:



Recreational fires are required to be a minimum of 25 feet away from all combustible materials and structures, including houses, decks, fences, sheds, utility poles, etc. Conditions that could cause a fire to spread to within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition. This could necessitate mowing and watering grass, trimming trees and shrubs, etc.

Portable Outdoor Fireplace Location:



Portable outdoor fireplaces do not have a required minimum clearance from structures and combustible materials, but are recommended to be operated at least 15 feet away from combustibles (houses, sheds, decks, fences, etc.). Portable outdoor fireplaces must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions at all times.

Burn Restrictions and Permits

LFRA's goal is to allow the use of recreational fire and portable outdoor fireplaces while ensuring the safety of you, your neighbors and our firefighters. For that reason, neither recreational fire nor portable outdoor fireplaces may be utilized during the following situations:

1. When there is a "Red Flag Warning" issued by the National Weather Service.
2. When the Fire Weather Outlook for the day is "Elevated, Critical or Extreme."
3. When there is an open burning restriction issued by a county sheriff (for unincorporated areas) or elected representatives (for incorporated areas).
4. During periods of sustained or gusty winds that make the activity unsafe, or if Such winds are in the weather forecast.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING CURRENT OR PREDICTED CONDITIONS, CALL THE LFRA DISPATCH CENTER NON-EMERGENT LINE AT 970-962-2800.

Fire Department Notification

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Attendance

Recreational fires and portable outdoor fireplaces shall be attended by a responsible, non-impaired adult (18 years or older) who has access to a telephone to notify the fire department if a problem develops. This attendance shall be constant and shall continue until the fire is completely extinguished (out cold). Means of rapidly extinguishing the fire shall be in close proximity at all times and shall include at least one of the following:

- A portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 5 lb. capacity and rated for Class A fires (wood, paper, plastic), as is shown on the fire extinguisher.
- A garden hose with a spray nozzle and the valve turned on.
- A 5-gallon bucket of water or sand (with shovel).
- Tractors or other heavy equipment capable of safely smothering the fire.

Permissible Fuels

Firewood and other natural vegetation (tree branches cut into small pieces) may be burned in recreational fires and portable outdoor fireplaces. Wood and other vegetation must be clean and dry. Products specifically manufactured to assist with igniting fires may be used in accordance with the instructions on the packaging, such as "fire logs."

Conversely, materials prohibited from being burned include household goods, such as clothing, appliances; furniture, etc.; construction materials, including but not limited to dimensional lumber; grass clippings; leaves; trash; and recyclable materials. Use of gasoline and other flammable liquids to start the fire is prohibited.

Extinguishment Ordered by the Fire Department

LFRA is authorized to order the extinguishment of any open burning if any of these safety guidelines are not followed, or based on current and predicted weather conditions, as determined by the LFRA responding firefighters or battalion chief.