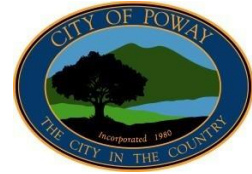




Fire Prevention Division Policies and Procedures



Open Burning, Portable Outdoor Fireplaces and Recreational Fires

All open-burning, portable outdoor fireplaces and recreational fires are regulated by the City of Poway Fire Department through the Poway Municipal Code and its adoption of the California Fire Code.

Definitions

- Opening Burning – the burning of materials wherein products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber. Open burning does not include road flares, smudge pots, or similar devices associated with safety or occupational uses typically considered open flames, recreational fires, or use of portable outdoor fireplaces. For the purpose of this definition, a chamber shall be regarded as enclosed when, during the time combustion occurs, only apertures, ducts, stacks, flues, or chimneys necessary to provide combustion air and permit the exhaust of gas are open. Open burning is prohibited when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous. The City of Poway requires a Permit to Operate be issued by the Fire Department and is for agricultural purposes only.
- Portable Outdoor Fireplace – a portable, outdoor, solid-fuel-burning fireplace that may be constructed of steel, concrete, clay or other noncombustible material. It may be open in design, or may be equipped with a small hearth opening and a short chimney or chimney opening in the top.
- 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, small manufactured fire pit, 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, religion, ceremonies, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.



Open burning, use of portable outdoor fireplaces, and recreational fires shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. Fire officials are authorized to order the extinguishment of the operation when open burning, the use of portable outdoor fireplaces, or recreational fires create or adds to a hazardous situation or when the smoke or odor emissions are considered a public nuisance.



The following safety practices must be in place at all times:

- An adult must be present to watch and tend to outdoor fires.
- A minimum of 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.
- Portable outdoor fireplaces, except when used at one and two-family dwellings, shall be used in accordance with manufacturer recommendations and shall not be within 15-feet of a structure or combustible material. These devices shall be equipped with an attached spark arrestor.
- Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25-feet of a structure or combustible material. Conditions that could cause a fire to spread within 25-feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.