



"BETTER BY THE BAY"

Metro Fire Department

Captain Joe Gabe  
Fire Marshal

**24.09. RECREATIONAL FIRES, COOKING FIRES AND FIRE PITS. Recreational fires, barbeque pits, portable fire pits, and portable outdoor fireplaces are permitted on properties zoned residential and occupied by a single- or two-family residence under the following conditions:**

1. **Recreational in-ground fire pits shall be at least twenty five (25) feet from any type of a building or structure, combustible material of any form, or property line.**
2. **Recreational fires, barbecue pits, and outdoor fireplaces shall be contained in an area not to exceed three (3) feet wide by three (3) feet long, or a circle larger than three (3) feet in diameter. The flames of the fire shall be no higher than three (3) feet.**
3. **All residential recreational fires and barbecue pits, excluding portable fire pits and outdoor fireplaces as defined, shall be dug into the ground at least six (6) but not more than twelve (12) inches and surrounded on the outside, above ground level, by a non-combustible material extending at least six (6) inches above grade.**
4. **Portable listed and rated fire pits shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and shall be placed on a non-combustible surface that is at least one and a half (1.5) times larger than the size of the portable fire pit. In the absence of manufacturer's recommendations, portable fire pits shall be at least fifteen (15) feet from any type of building or structure, combustible material of any form, or property line.**
5. **Any propane or natural gas fire tables must follow all manufactures specifications. In the absence of manufacturer's recommendations, fire tables shall be at least fifteen (15) feet from any type of building or structure, combustible material of any form, or property line.**
6. **All portable fire pits and fire tables must be listed and rated devices. Homemade devices and converted grills are prohibited.**

7. Only clean dry wood can be burned. The burning of garbage, trash, refuse, treated wood, painted/varnished wood, plastic, rubber, construction lumber, and flammable liquids, and/or combustible liquids in any form is prohibited. Burning of leaves, yard waste, or brush is prohibited.
8. Burning is prohibited when the wind is in excess of 10 mph as determined by the National Weather Service (<https://www.weather.gov>) or Weather Underground (<https://www.wunderground.com/>).
9. Fire extinguishing equipment shall be readily available as may be necessary for the total control of the fire. Examples include but are not limited to a bucket of water, garden hose, or fire extinguisher.
10. Burning must be attended at all times by a person at least eighteen (18) years of age until the fire has been extinguished.
11. Burning shall not create smoke that causes a public nuisance or a visibility hazard to any form of transportation. Any recreational fire pit shall be extinguished at the request of Fire Department Personnel.
12. When weather conditions warrant, the Fire Chief, may declare a burning ban.