



## Outdoor Fire Regulations

The Tacoma Fire Department has prepared the following information regarding outdoor fire regulations. Note - **all** outdoor fires are prohibited during a burn ban (with the exception of Liquefied Petroleum Gas LPG {propane} as the fuel)

### Definitions:

**BAR-B-QUE:** A cooking appliance that may be portable or permanent.

Use conditions:

- Only clean natural firewood, charcoal, manufactured fire logs and LPG are permissible fuels.

**BURN BARREL:** A barrel or other container used to burn rubbish and other debris.

Use conditions:

- ILLEGAL–NOT PERMITTED

**OPEN BURNING:** The burning of vegetation from land clearing.

Use conditions:

- ILLEGAL-NOT PERMITTED

**OUTDOOR FIREPLACE:** An outdoor fireplace constructed of masonry or metal materials and considered permanent in nature:

Use conditions:

- Only clean natural firewood, charcoal, manufactured fire logs and LPG are permissible fuels.
- Fire shall be attended at all times

**PORTABLE FIRE DEVICES with OPEN FLAME:** A non combustible device such as a fire pit or fire bowl or chiminea that contains the fire.

Use conditions:

- Only clean natural firewood, charcoal, manufactured fire logs or LPG are permissible fuels.

- Fire extinguisher with rating of **4-A** or greater **OR** a charged hose with a nozzle attached is required to be readily available.
- 15 foot distance from any structure is required.
- Fire shall be attended at all times.

**RECREATIONAL FIRE:** A recreational fire where the fuel is **NOT** contained in an incinerator, 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.

Use conditions:

- Only clean natural firewood, charcoal or manufactured fire logs are permissible fuels.
- Fire extinguisher with a rating of **4 A** or greater **OR** a charged hose with a nozzle attached is required to be readily available.
- 25 foot distance from any structure is required.
- If wind creates a hazard of fire spread the fire shall be extinguished.
- Vegetation or other combustible material creating a path for fire spread shall be removed prior to starting the fire.
- Fire shall be attended by an adult at all times.
- Not permitted during a burn ban.

- **Recreational Fires Continued:**

The fire is not being conducted on public property where fires are prohibited, such as in a park or on school grounds. Fires in parks are only allowed where specifically authorized and where appropriate burning receptacles are provided.

**FUEL RESTRICTIONS:**

- Burning yard waste is illegal.
- Burning garbage is illegal.
- Burning cardboard or paper, except to start a fire is illegal.
- Burning building materials i.e. scrap wood, paint, vinyl flooring, roofing, carpet etc. is illegal.
- Burning dead animals is illegal.
- Burning of plastic, rubber, trash or other prohibited fuel may constitute an unauthorized release of hazardous material to the atmosphere.

**PERMITS REQUIRED** from the Tacoma Fire Department:

- A **BONFIRE** permit is required for open fires with a **fuel volume** exceeding 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height with more restrictive conditions. There is a permit fee associated with this activity.

Please see the PERMITS section for the BONFIRE PERMIT application or call 253.591.5740.

- A permit is not required for ceremonial underground cooking fires.
- A permit is not required for Recreational fires as previously defined.

**ENFORCEMENT**

- All illegal or unattended fires shall be extinguished immediately.
- Causing a nuisance is illegal. If the smoke from the fire bothers the neighbors, damages their property or otherwise causes a nuisance, the fire shall be extinguished.
- Violation of a BURN BAN ORDER is subject to citation from the Tacoma Fire Department and Puget Sound Clean Air Agency.
- Burning illegal fuel is subject to citation from the Tacoma Fire Department and Puget Sound Clean Air.
  - Violation of the Fire Code is a misdemeanor with penalties up to \$1,000 and 90 days in jail.
  - Puget Sound Clean Air penalties start at \$2,000 to a maximum of \$15,000 for each occurrence.
  - For more information about burn bans visit the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency web site @ [www.pscleanair.org](http://www.pscleanair.org) or 1-800-595-4341.