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Fire Pits, Outdoor Fireplaces and Chimineas

Aurora Fire Rescue provides this information as a public service with the intent of improving safety within the city of Aurora and ensuring a safe community. This bulletin is intended to provide general information related to fire pits, outdoor fireplaces and chimineas and is not designed nor can it be relied upon to completely cover all situations. Your safety can best be assured through continued personal vigilance, education and diligence.

Aurora Fire Rescue frequently receives inquiries regarding Fire Pits, Chimineas (Free Standing Fire Pots), and Outdoor Fireplaces. We classify these devices as self-contained **“Portable outdoor fireplaces”**. As such, they fall under the Fire Code in Section 307 **“Open Burning, Recreational Fires, and Portable Outdoor Fireplaces”**.

The currently adopted edition of the International Fire Code (IFC) permits the use of these devices providing certain stipulations are met:

- Portable outdoor fireplaces: Use according to manufacturer’s instructions and must be at least 15 feet from a structure or combustible material.
- Recreational fires (fire pits): Shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material. These fires shall be limited in size to three feet in diameter and two feet in height.

It is important to be aware that the use of these fires can be prohibited if the burning is offensive or objectionable because of smoke emissions or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous. This stipulation intends to protect the public from recreational burning when it endangers the safety, health, or welfare of owners and occupants of property near the burn site or the public in general.

The following text is from the IFC:

307.1.1 Prohibited open burning.

Open burning that is offensive or objectionable because of smoke emissions or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited. **This would include “Red Flag” days or Air Quality Index days of “Red” or higher.**

307.3 Extinguishment authority.

The fire code official is authorized to order the extinguishment of open burning that creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation.

307.5 Attendance.

Open burning, bonfires, recreational fires and use of portable outdoor fireplaces shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher complying with Section 906 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.

If you have any unanswered questions or concerns, please contact the Aurora Fire Rescue Life Safety Division at 303-326-8999.