

Does the City of Apple Valley allow recreational fires?

Recreational fires are allowed in single-family residences in the City when the following provisions are followed:

- The fire is contained to a 3 x 3 area; this can be *in* or *on* the ground, as long as it is completely surrounded by non-combustible material. These same restrictions apply to free-standing manufactured fire pits, fireplaces, and chimineas.
- The site of the fire must be twenty-five (25) feet from any combustible structure and more than fifteen (15) feet from property lines.
- The winds must be less than fifteen (15) miles per hour.
- Only clean, dry firewood may be burned and it must be in lengths no longer than three (3) feet.
- A fire extinguishing source (extinguisher, garden hose, sand) must be readily available at the fire site from start to end.
- Adult supervision is required while having a recreational fire.
- All fires are subject to discontinuance by the Fire or Police Department.
- Recreational fires are not intended for disposing of yard debris.

For the complete *Recreational Fire Ordinance*, including definition of terms, please see the reverse side of this handout.

NOTE: State-Issued Burning Bans DO NOT impact this policy.
HOWEVER, please be mindful that high winds and/or dry conditions require extra attention and safety for even the smallest fire.

If in doubt, put it out.

§ 93.30 PURPOSE.

The purpose of this subchapter is to establish the guidelines for recreational fires.
(Ord. 824, passed 10-25-07)

§ 93.31 DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this subchapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

RECREATIONAL FIRE. A fire for recreational, ceremonial, food preparation for social events. Mobile cooking devices, such as manufactured hibachis, charcoal grills, wood smokers and those that burn propane or natural gas, are not defined as "recreational fires".

RECREATIONAL FIRE SITE. An area no more than three feet by three feet by three feet. It shall be completely surrounded by non-combustible and non-smoke- or odor-producing material, either of natural rock, cement, brick, tile or blocks, or ferrous metal, including permanent, outdoor, wood-burning fireplaces. Freestanding, manufactured fire pits are also included. These sites must be 25 feet from any combustible structure, and 15 from the property line.

STARTER FUELS. Dry, untreated, unpainted, kindling, branches, cardboard or charcoal fire starter. Starter sticks, propane gas torches or other clean, gas-burning devices causing minimal pollution may be used to start fires.

STRUCTURES. Include a house, garage, shed, deck or fence.

WOOD. Dry, clean fuel only, such as twigs, branches, limbs, presto logs, charcoal, cord wood, pallet wood or untreated dimensional lumber. The term does not include wood that is green with leaves or needles, rotten, wet, oil-soaked, or treated with paint, glue or preservatives.

(Ord. 824, passed 10-25-07)

§ 93.32 REQUIREMENTS.

(A) Adult supervision required. All recreational fires shall be supervised by an adult who is in the immediate vicinity of the recreational fire until it is extinguished. **(B) Extinguisher or similar device required.** A fire extinguisher or garden hose attached to a working water spigot shall be readily available at the location of any open burning or recreational fire. **(C) Wind restriction.** No fire shall be allowed if winds are greater than 15 miles per hour. **(D) Smoke complaints.** Any complaints about smoke from a fire shall be cause for immediate extinguishment of the fire. **(E) Discontinuance by authorities.** All fires are subject to discontinuance at the direction of the Fire or Police Department. **(F) Public property restrictions.** No fire shall be combusted in a public right-of-way or on public property, except that a recreational fire may be combusted on public property where designated. **(G) Prohibited materials.** No prohibited materials as established in § 93.42 shall be combusted in a recreational fire. **(H) Wood length limitation.** No wood combusted in a recreational fire shall exceed three feet in length.

§ 93.42 PROHIBITED MATERIALS.

(A) No person shall conduct, cause or permit open burning oils, petro fuels, rubber, plastics, chemically treated materials, or other materials which produce excessive or noxious smoke, such as tires, railroad ties, treated, painted or glued wood composite, shingles, tar paper, insulation, composition board, sheetrock, wiring, paint or paint fillers. **(B)** No person shall conduct, cause or permit open burning of hazardous waste or salvage operations, solid waste generated from an industrial or manufacturing process or from a service or commercial establishment, or building materials generated from demolition of commercial or institutional structures. **(C)** No person shall conduct, cause or permit open burning of discarded material resulting from the handling, processing, storage, preparation, serving or consumption of food. **(D)** No person shall conduct, cause or permit open burning of any leaves or grass clippings.