



**OPEN BURNING**  
**RECREATIONAL FIRES**  
**PORTABLE OUTDOOR FIREPLACES**  
**OUTDOOR COOKING**

Every year many fires are started and many injuries occur when small fires being used for recreational purposes or for the disposal of trash and landscape material get out of control or are left unattended and the fire spreads to nearby structures or vehicles. To control this hazard, the following provisions are made in the fire prevention codes.

**OPEN BURNING IS PROHIBITED!**

(IFC 2018 307.1.1)

- Outdoor fireplaces are allowed for recreational fires at residences only.
- Outdoor fireplaces are not allowed for recreational fires at multi-family residences.
- Only clean, dry, seasoned firewood shall be used as fuel.
- Recreational fires shall not be used to dispose of landscape material such as leaves, shrubbery, and grass.
- Recreational fires shall not be used for the disposal of building materials, refuse or other trash.
- Recreational fires in outdoor fireplaces or fire pits shall be attended constantly until the fire is extinguished.
- Outdoor fireplaces shall be located a minimum of 15 feet from any structure. This includes homes, decks, yard sheds, fences, and swimming pools (IFC 2018 307.4.3).
- Outdoor fireplaces shall be located on a non-combustible surface or in areas where vegetation has been cleared away in accordance with the restrictions for outdoor fireplaces (IFC 2018 307.4.3).
- Portable fire pits shall be 9 square feet maximum with no one side longer than 3 feet.
- Circular fire pits shall be a maximum of 3 feet in diameter and no more than 24 inches deep.
- Combustible grass, vegetation and landscaping shall be cleared away a minimum of 36 inches from all sides of the fire pit.

## OUTDOOR COOKING

Everybody loves an outdoor barbecue. However, outdoor cooking can also lead to tragedy when carelessness causes serious burns. The Carol Stream Fire District offers the following safety checklist to use when cooking outdoors.

- Make sure the barbecue grill is level, steady and on a non-combustible surface. Keep a container of water nearby.
- Keep small children away from the barbecue grill.
- Grills should never be brought inside a house, tent, or recreational vehicle because of the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning in sealed or confined areas.
- Barbecue grills shall not be operated on balconies or patios within 10 feet of the building or balcony above (IFC 2018 308.1.4).

## CHARCOAL GRILLS

(IFC 2018 308.1.4)

- When lighting a grill, the safest fire starters are chemicals in cake form or an electric charcoal starter.
- Never add fire starter after you have started your grill. The heat could ignite the stream of liquid and burn back into the can, causing serious burns. To speed a slow fire, tuck dry kindling under the charcoal.
- After cooking, soak the coals in water. Dispose of charcoal in a metal container with a tight lid. Many fires are started because hot coals, thought to be cool, were dumped in the trash.
- A bag of damp or wet charcoal should be immediately disposed of, as it can spontaneously combust.

## GAS GRILLS

(IFC 2018 308.1.4)

- Follow lighting instructions carefully.
- Check tank hose connection for tightness.
- Check hoses for cracks, splits and leaks.
- Do not use grill if any leaks are present.
- Gas grills are not allowed on balconies of multi-family units (IFC 2018 308.1.4).
- If you store a spare tank, keep the safety plug tight, and store the tank in a cool, well-ventilated area.

We hope you enjoy a safe and delicious outdoor cooking season!  
for further information, contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at:  
630-668-4836