

Outdoor Fire Pits, Outdoor Fireplaces and Chimineas

With the introduction of widely available inexpensive outdoor fireplaces, illegal outside fires have become a statewide problem. State laws and regulations allow a reasonable outside fire without a permit only if the fire is used primarily for cooking. The person in control of the fire must be over eighteen and the fire is required to be set upon sandy or rocky soil free from vegetation, enclosed within rocks, metal or noncombustible material and be located more than 75 feet from a building.

Frequently outdoor fireplaces are used too close to a building and or the primary use of the fire is for viewing purposes. Usually these fires are kept burning for several hours and in addition to the fire hazard, they can create a nuisance smoke condition for neighbors.

When we receive a complaint about an outside fire, a Fire Officer will investigate. If an outside fire is found to be too close to a building or they are creating a nuisance smoke condition the fire will be extinguished.

Open Burning of Brush

Open burning of brush is allowed by permit only from January 15th to May 1st each year provided the following conditions are met:

1. Burning shall be limited to brush, branches, cane, driftwood, and forest debris from other than commercial land clearing operations. ***No open burning of grass, hay leaves, stumps, tires, or rubbish allowed.***
2. Permits are valid for two (2) days and may be purchased for \$15.00 in advance at the Reading Fire Department located at 757 Main Street Reading.
3. Permit holders who desire to burn must call (781)944-3132 after 9:00 a.m. each day for permission to burn. No fire shall be started before 10:00 a.m. and all fires shall be fully extinguished by 4:00 p.m. of the same day.
4. All fires must be at least 75 feet from any dwelling or structure and must be attended and controlled at all times.
5. The use of gasoline or any volatile liquid to start or maintain fires is prohibited. Additional regulations relating to open burning may be enforced under this permit.
6. This permit does not release the holder of any liability associated with open burning.
7. This permit may be cancelled or revoked at any time by the Fire Chief or his designee.
8. The permit must be available for inspection by Fire Department personnel upon request. Permits are not transferable and are only good for the address issued.