



FIRE PIT POLICY

A fire pit can add ambience to your outdoor area; however, it's important to review and understand fire pit safety. The concern with having wood-burning fire pits is that sparks and flying embers can ignite nearby surfaces. It takes only a second for a cozy fire to burst into a blazing inferno. In order to reduce fire hazards and avoid fire damage, you ***must*** abide by the below rules of operation, as well as, follow the below precautionary measures.

- Must be placed on a level, steady non-combustible surface such as brick, stone or sand
- Must be kept at least 15 feet away from all buildings, sheds, fences, shrubs and low hanging tree branches
- Must burn only dry material as damp wood causes more smoke. Stay away from soft woods like pine or cedar because they can “pop” and throw sparks.
- Must never use lighter fluid or gasoline to start a fire
- Must use the spark/ember guard to reduce the chance of jumping sparks
- Must never operate beneath a building overhang or under a covered porch
- Must ensure there are no cables, wires, etc... above the flames
- Must have a bucket of water and/or garden hose (recommend “shower” setting) nearby to deal with wayward sparks
- Must have a fire extinguisher available
- Must check the climate conditions, especially the wind speed and direction. It is too windy to have a fire if the wind is strong enough to noticeably sway the trees and blow debris around
- Must be operated under adult supervision at all times and never be left unattended
- Must properly ensure the fire is extinguished by allowing the wood to burn completely to ashes and let them cool down. Gently pour water over the charred materials until the hissing sound stops. Everything should be wet and cold to the touch before you leave.

There are certain conditions that render a fire unsafe. Residents will be required to discontinue burning if any of the following conditions/hazards are present:

- Smoke direction is causing discomfort to nearby persons
- Airborne sparks may cause damage to nearby property
- Wind causes hazardous burning conditions
- A burning ban is in effect
- National Weather Alerts for dry conditions

It is recommended that you check with your Renter's Insurance company about the impact of having a fire pit and whether you should increase your coverage as preparation for a worst-case scenario.