

Recreational Fire Regulations

A recreational/camp fire is a fire set with an approved starter fuel and is no more than three feet in diameter contained in an area of no more than a three-foot diameter circle; completely surrounded by non-combustible and non-smoke or odor producing material, either natural rock, cement, brick, tile, blocks, or ferrous metal. Burning barrels are not a recreational fire site. Recreational/camp fires are for recreational, ceremonial, or social food preparation.

A recreational fire is allowed without an open burning permit under the following restrictions:

- No more than one recreational fire is allowed on any property at one time;
- Fires shall not be allowed to smolder with no flame present and must be extinguished completely before quitting the occasion;
- Recreational burning times are from 9:00 am until midnight;
- The fire is conducted by a person at least 18 years of age tending to the fire at all times;
- Recreational fire sites shall not be located closer than 25 feet to any structure or combustible material;
- The fire burns using only dry, clean wood, producing little detectable smoke, odor, or soot beyond the property line;
- Fire extinguishing equipment such as an operable fire extinguisher, buckets, shovels, or garden hoses must be readily available and located within 10 feet of the recreational fire site;
- No recreational/camp fire is allowed when wind speeds exceed 15 miles per hour based on weather channel reports for sustained winds at the time of the fire;
- A recreational/camp fire must burn cleanly in a manner that does not cause objectionable smoke beyond the property line, as determined by the fire official or a police officer;
- The adult tending to the recreational/camp fire must respect weather conditions, neighbors, burning bans, and air quality requirements so that nuisance, health, or safety hazards will not be created;
- Fires greater than 3 feet in diameter will require a Burning Permit issued by the City of Cambridge Fire Department official;
- Running fires, or fires not in a single pile will require a burning permit issued by the DNR.