

Recreational Fire Policy for the Cities of Del Mar, Encinitas, and Solana Beach

This policy applies to Recreational Fires at dwellings, condos, apartments, etc. *This policy does not apply to uses that require a Fire Prevention Bureau permit: e.g. bonfires, pit cooking fires, social gatherings, or other commercial uses.*

Recreational Fires in containers using **WOOD** shall be in approved fire appliances such as: container or appliance with solid metal bottom, screened sides and solid metal lid, OR, an outdoor fireplace with screened front and a spark arrestor, or other safe, purpose built fire appliance; constructed of stucco, metal, brick or non-combustible sides, with a screened top.

- A. Fires burning **WOOD** shall be minimum **15 feet** from structure or any combustible material.
- B. Fire pits shall have sides at least 12 inches in height that completely encircle the fire.
- C. Fires shall have a responsible adult on premise for the duration of the fire.
- D. An extinguishment tool must be present i.e. garden hose, fire extinguisher shovel and dirt.

Recreational Fires in containers using **NATURAL GAS or PROPANE** only; may be in approved purpose-built fire appliances or pits which include; a container or appliance with metal, brick, and concrete or dirt bottom, with side material constructed of stucco, brick or other non-combustible material. No screened or other type of lid required on fires that burn only **NATURAL GAS OR PROPANE** and use fake log or rocks, etc. If person is using a natural gas fire or propane pit *and is also burning wood*, then top & sides must be screened to prevent escape of embers.

- A. All outdoor fireplaces must be listed and installed per the manufacturers specifications and built to city standards.
- B. All fixed and portable fireplaces shall not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material. Exception: portable devices used at one and two-family dwellings.
- C. A shutoff key or valve shall be readily available for use.

Cooking Fires using **COAL, NATURAL GAS or PROPANE**, should not be conducted within **10 feet** of combustibles or under eaves. Distance can be reduced to a minimum of 3 feet from combustible construction if using a stucco or brick purpose-built BBQ.

- A. Cooking on balconies and patios of any multi-family housing is **NOT** permitted unless protected with a fire sprinkler system or the LP container is limited to a gas capacity of 1-pound or less.

GENERAL NOTES:

- 1. A fire in illegally constructed containers or pits and/or placing food on grill upon arrival of FD, does not negate requirements indicated above.
- 2. Vegetation, low-hanging trees, or other combustibles should be at least **25 feet** away.
- 3. Burning **Pallets** is permissible, provided they are cut-up in quarters and fit within the container or pit.
- 4. Height of fire / flame coming from container should be reasonable as determined by fire department personnel.
- 5. Fire extinguisher, garden hose and/or shovel with sand /dirt shall be present for extinguishment.
- 6. Fires shall have a responsible adult on premise for the duration of the fire.
- 7. All fires shall be fully extinguished prior to leaving the site.
- 8. Wash tubs, Chiminea- (without spark arrestor & proper screened cover in front or on top of appliance), in-ground pits edged with rocks/bricks, or other questionable homemade appliances or containers are **NOT permitted**.

If the fire department deems any recreational fire unsafe, or wind/weather conditions dictate a hazardous condition, the fire department has legal authority to require extinguishment of any recreational fire. CFC Section 307.1.1 and 8/2023Section 307.3.