

Policy: Recreational Burning/Outdoor Fire Pit Guidelines	Effective Date: January 24, 2012	Revised: 05/05/2017
Policy Number: POLICY FP006	Section: Fire Prevention	Prior Policy Number: N/A
Department: District	Initial Policy Date: 01/24/2012	Prior Effective Date: FIRST RELEASE

The following requirements are based on the 2012 International Fire Code as adopted by Windsor Severance Fire Rescue and fire safety best practices necessary to ensure fire safety and to reduce false alarms for the legal and authorized use of fire.

1. Outdoor recreational burning is allowed at single family dwellings only when contained within a manufactured, portable outdoor fire pit; outside fireplace; or in a chiminea. All wood burning appliances shall include a screen or spark arrestor design feature. A permit is not required for these devices.

Pictures of authorized fire pits:



2. Clearance from structures and fencing shall be at least 15 feet; distances to property lines shall be at least 15 feet. Size of the wood pile is limited to 3 feet in diameter by 2 feet in height. The ground within 5 feet of the base of the fire shall be cleared of all combustible materials, such as grass or weeds. (Exception is one and two-family dwellings)
3. The length of burn time of the fire must be reasonable so as not to disturb neighbors. Operators shall not allow the fire to produce noxious smoke.
4. The burning of rubbish, trash, construction materials, yard debris, leaves, or recyclable materials is strictly prohibited. Only clean, dry wood may be burned.
5. A responsible, non-impaired adult shall be present and monitor the burning until the fire is extinguished (i.e. out cold) and provide a means for rapid fire extinguishment such as a portable fire extinguisher, water from a garden hose, or a shovel and dirt or sand.
6. Burning is not allowed when winds are above 5 miles per hour or during prolonged periods of low, relative humidity.
7. Outdoor wood burning appliances shall be maintained in good repair at all times and situated on cleared, level ground so that the appliance cannot tip over.
8. Windsor Severance Fire Rescue is authorized to order the extinguishment of any Open Burning if the smoke emissions are offensive to other local occupants, or if safety guidelines are not followed.

For questions, contact Windsor Severance Fire Rescue at (970) 686.2626.