

Bonfires

A bonfire is **any** outdoor fire (including recreational fires, BBQ Pit or Portable Outdoor Fireplaces) with a fuel area larger than 3' wide by 2' high.

Permits Required? Yes.

Fees: \$207.00 per fire - Community Safety must be contacted at (909) 386-8400 or (760) 995-8194 for a permit prior to kindling the fire.

Requirements and Restrictions

- **Bonfires are prohibited in a Wildfire Risk Area**

EXCEPTION: Within an organized camp with written permission from the Fire Code Official.

- Fire must be a minimum of 50' away from a structure or other combustible materials.
- Distance may be reduced to 25' if in a BBQ pit and created specifically to create coals for cooking.
- Fuels may only be clean, dry wood or charcoal.
- Trash may not be burned in a bonfire.

Recreational Fires

A recreational fire is any outdoor fire with a fuel area no larger than 3' wide by 2' high, is **not** contained in a outdoor fireplace, BBQ grill or BBQ pit, and is used for pleasure, religious, ceremony, cooking, warmth, etc. This is the typical campfire or fire ring.

Permits Required? Yes. **EXCEPTION:** When confined to a permanent fire ring and it is fueled solely by LPG/Propane or natural gas - no permit required.

Fees: None.

Requirements and Restrictions

- Fuel area shall not exceed 3' high x 2' wide.
- Fire must be a minimum of 25' away from a structure or other combustible materials.
- The distance to structures or combustibles may be reduced to 15' when confined to a permanent fire ring and fueled solely by LPG/Propane or natural gas.
- Fuels may only be clean, dry wood or charcoal.
- Trash shall not be burned in a recreational fire.

Portable Outdoor Fireplaces

A Portable Outdoor Fireplace is a non-fixed fireplace (including chimneys) of any non-combustible material with a fuel area no larger than 3' wide by 2' high.

Permits Required? Only when used in a Wildfire Risk Area.

EXCEPTION: When fueled solely by LPG/Propane or natural gas - no permit required.

Fees: None.

Requirements and Restrictions

- Portable fireplace shall be no closer than 15' to a structure or combustible materials.
- **EXCEPTION:** At single family residences, portable outdoor fireplaces may be located on a patio/balcony if the combustion area is not in direct contact with combustible decking.
- **Portable Outdoor Fireplaces are prohibited on combustible patios/balconies of multi-family dwellings unless sprinklered.**

BBQ Pits

A BBQ Pit is an outdoor fire in the ground with a fuel area no larger than 3' wide by 2' high specifically used for cooking over coals.

Permits Required? Yes.

Fees: None.

Requirements and Restrictions

- **BBQ Pits are prohibited in a Wildfire Risk Area**
EXCEPTION: Within an organized camp with written permission from the Fire Code Official.
- BBQ Pits must be a minimum of 20' away from a structure or other combustible materials.
- Fuels shall only be clean, dry wood or charcoal.

BBQ's

Permits Required? None. For residential-style BBQ's. Commercial restaurant-style BBQ's may require a permit

Fees: None.

Requirements and Restrictions

- **BBQs are prohibited on combustible patios/balconies of multi-family dwellings unless sprinklered.**



San Bernardino County Fire Department



Outdoor Fire Requirements Guide

Summary

This guide is intended to provide a basic understanding of the various outdoor fire types typically encountered by Suppression and Prevention staff.

Per the California Fire Code, there are generally six outdoor fire types:

Open Burning Projects

Bonfires

Recreational Fires

Portable Outdoor Fireplaces

BBQ Pits and BBQ's

WE DO NOT CURRENTLY CHARGE FEES FOR ANY BURN PERMITS EXCEPT BONFIRES

General Fire Requirements

- All fires must be located and conducted in a manner which does not present a hazard.
- Department staff can require that any fire be extinguished if a hazardous condition exists (such as flames are too high, the wind is blowing embers, extremely low humidity, etc.), or if the fire produces excessive, offensive or objectionable smoke.
- The decision to prohibit or extinguish a fire must be made on a case-by-case basis taking into account the totality of local conditions.

BE REASONABLE AND USE GOOD JUDGMENT

- A minimum of a 4-A rated fire extinguisher and a water supply shall be immediately available (hose, water barrel, water truck, etc) for all fires.
- All fires must be attended by a responsible adult, 18 years or older, at all times until extinguished.
- Spark arrestors shall be used on all outdoor fireplaces or any other fire using a chimney (including chimneys).
- Open Burning Projects, Bonfires and Barbecue Pits shall not be kindled in a Wildfire Risk Area unless specifically permitted under special circumstances.
- A Wildfire Risk Area is any area within a Fire Safety Overlay, an area designated by a City or Town as a Very High Fire Severity Zone, High Fire Hazard Area, No Fireworks Safety Zone or any other land so designated by the Fire Code Official.
- Ashes/embers shall be placed only in a covered metal or other non-combustible container after being cooled with water. Ashes/embers shall not be placed in the trash, on the ground or on a combustible surface.

General Fire Requirements (Cont.)

- ALL Fires (except for BBQ's and recreational fires/portable outdoor fireplaces fueled by propane/natural gas) shall be prohibited/extinguished when winds exceed 10 mph, during Red Flag Warnings/Fire Weather Watches or when otherwise prohibited by Federal or State agencies having jurisdiction.
- On private property, permits shall only be issued to the property owner unless written permission from the owner is provided.
- Any fire where wire is burned to remove insulation, vehicles are burned to recover salvageable parts, or trash, construction debris, treated wood, plastics, dead animals, tires, industrial wastes, hazardous materials/wastes, painted materials, rubber, furniture, equipment, cardboard, paper, or similar items are burned is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED**.
- Fires in Wildfire Risk Areas shall only be kindled on private property or a designated campsite.

Open Burning Projects

Open burning projects are the burning of materials in the open without the use of an enclosed chamber or chimney. Projects include the burning of residential yard waste, tree trimmings, tumbleweeds, and vegetative materials from an agricultural operation.

Required Permits

A "Rule 444" permit, approved by the local Air Quality Management District (AQMD) and issued by a local fire station is required.

Open Burning Projects in State Responsibility Areas (SRA) including Forest/BLM Land, may require a State permit, as well.

General Requirements and Restrictions

- The permittee SHALL contact San Bernardino County Communications Center at (909) 356-3805 to determine if it is a Permissive Burn Day prior to ignition.
- Open burning can only occur at the location listed on the permit.
- All vegetation must be dried for the following periods prior to burning:
 - Trees/Branches 3" and greater—6 weeks
 - Pruning/Small branches 1" - 3": 4 weeks
 - Fine Fuels 1/4" - 1": 3 weeks
 - Very fine fuels less than 1/4": 10 days
- **Only vegetation can be burned.**
- **Burn barrels are strictly prohibited in all areas.**
- **Open Burning Projects are prohibited in a Wildfire Risk Area**

Open Burning Project (Cont.)

General Requirements and Restrictions

- Burn piles shall not be no more than approximately 6' wide by 4' high.
- Open burning shall not be conducted closer than 50' from any structure or combustible materials.
- The distance from an open burn to a structure may be reduced to 25' if the pile size is no greater than 3' wide by 2' high.
- All burn piles shall be separated by a minimum of 10'.
- Piles shall not be placed in a pit or depression.

AIR DISTRICT-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS

Mojave Desert AQMD - All Desert areas, Wrightwood, Summit Valley, Cajon Junction and Cajon Valley

- Agricultural and tumbleweed burning MUST have prior approval and inspection by MDAQMD. In SRA, CalFire/County Fire must also inspect.
- Residential burning of yard and tree trimmings is **ok**.
- Residential trash and garbage burning is prohibited.
- Ignition must start between 6:00 AM and 12:00 noon ONLY.
- No additional combustible material can be added after 3:00 PM and ALL fire must be out within 1 hour of sunset.

South Coast AQMD - All San Bernardino Valley areas, all Mountains except Wrightwood.

ALL RESIDENTIAL BURNING IS PROHIBITED!

- Agricultural and tumbleweed burning MUST have prior approval and inspection by SCAQMD.
- General Agricultural burn ignition must start between 10 AM and 5 PM ONLY.
- Tumbleweed burn ignition must begin between one hour after sunrise and two hours before sunset.
- ALL fires must be completely extinguished within 1 hour of sunset.
- In Fontana, open burning may occur only from 6 AM to 11 AM.