



Loveland Fire Rescue Authority
Community Safety Division
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RECREATIONAL COOKING FIRES AND OUTDOOR FIRE PIT GUIDELINES

The following requirements are based on the 2012 International Fire Code, as adopted by the City of Loveland, Larimer County, Loveland Rural Fire Protection District, and the Town of Johnstown. These recommendations should be considered as “best practices” to improve fire safety and to reduce false alarms for the legal and authorized use of fire.

1. Outdoor recreational burning is allowed at one- and two-family homes only when contained within a manufactured, portable outdoor fire pit; outside fireplace; permanent fire pit; or a chiminea (see photos). All wood-burning appliances must include a screen or spark arrestor design feature and may not exceed three feet in diameter. A permit is **not** required to operate these devices.



2. Outdoor fire pits must be constructed to be permanent. The property owner should work with LFRA Community Safety Division and the municipality’s Building Department personnel to obtain necessary permits and inspections. Temporary fire pits, such a hole dug in dirt, are not permitted.
3. Outdoor wood burning appliances shall be maintained in good repair at all times and situated on clear and level ground so that the appliance cannot tip over. The fire’s location shall be no closer than 15 feet to adjacent combustible objects, including structures and fences. This same clearance is required between the fire and property lines.
4. The size of an outdoor fire pit shall be no larger than 3 feet in diameter, and the height of any fire within that pit shall be no higher than 2 feet. The ground within 5 feet of the base of the fire shall be cleared of all combustible materials, such as grass or weeds.
5. Only clean, dry wood may be burned. The burning of rubbish, trash, construction materials, yard debris, leaves, or recyclable materials is strictly prohibited.
6. A responsible, non-impaired adult shall be present and shall monitor the burning until the fire is extinguished (i.e., out cold) and shall provide a means for rapid fire extinguishment such as water from a garden hose, a portable fire extinguisher, or a shovel and dirt or sand.
7. Burning may be prohibited based upon current and predicted weather conditions, as determined by the LFRA company officer/incident commander.
8. Burning is not allowed when burn restrictions have been enacted by Larimer County Commissioners.
9. LFRA 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.