



fire engineering –fire prevention -fire education -disaster preparedness –fire code enforcement

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CALIFORNIA LAWS REGARDING BONFIRES, PORTABLE OUTDOOR FIREPLACES, AND RECREATIONAL FIRES

Q. Are portable outdoor fireplaces permitted on private property?

A. Yes. Portable outdoor fireplaces are permitted when the following conditions are met:

- It is a listed and approved device is used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions
- The device is not overfilled
- The required spark arrestor is attached
- It is operated more than 15 feet from a structure or combustibles
- Un-treated wood is used

California Fire Code 307.4.3

Q. Can I have a bonfire?

A. No. A bonfire is specifically defined by code as a large scale ceremonial fire requiring large areas of clear space and a Fire Department burn permit. Due to our particularly dense residential concentration Fire Department burn permits are seldom issued for bonfires.

California Fire Code 307.4.1

Q. Can I have a fire on the beach?

A. Beach fires can only within city provided fire rings, no exceptions.

*Currently there are no city provided fire rings available for use. **IBMC (Ord. 2003-1005 § 1, 2003)***

Q. How do recreational fires on private property fit in to all of this?

A. Recreational fires are allowed with some restrictions. These fires shall be maintained within pits that do not to exceed 3 feet **in diameter, 2 feet in height, and 25 feet from all combustibles, structures, and property lines using un-treated wood.**

California Fire Code 307.4.2

The key point to remember is that different types of outdoor fires are permissible when the conditions are met and clean un-treated wood is used. Additionally the Air Pollution Control District has requirements that need to be met as well. Fire Department personnel may order your outdoor fire to be extinguished if called and hazardous conditions exist so please be a good neighbor and observe these state guidelines.