



Murphy Fire-Rescue/Fire Marshal Office
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Recreational Fires

Fire Pits

Effective Date: 8/1/13

Summary: Fire Department requirements for the Permit issuance and safe operation of a fire pit.

Purpose

To establish minimum fire and/or life safety guidelines for the use and operation of recreational fires such as residential fire pits within the City of Murphy.

Scope

These guidelines are intended to apply to recreational fires such as residential fire pits which typically operate during the seasonally cooler times of the year and when vegetation fire loads are typically drier and more dangerous.

These guidelines are necessarily general in scope and should be applied with appropriate professional judgment and common sense in consideration of the overall fire and life safety situation.

This guide does not replace, nor supersede any adopted codes and/or ordinances adopted by the City of Murphy, or determinations and positions of the Fire Chief or Fire Marshal.

Definition

RECREATIONAL FIRE. An outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, barbeque grill or barbeque pit and has a total fuel area of 3 feet (914 mm) or less in diameter and 2 feet(610 mm) or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.

Requirements

In general, such fires shall comply with the provisions of the 2006 International Fire Code and the adopted local amendments to such codes as stated below:

- 1) Recreational fires are not to exceed three feet in diameter and two feet in height, and are located a minimum of 25 feet from any structure or property line or other combustible material.
- 2) Fire Extinguishers: At least one 2A:10BC (10-lb. multi-purpose) rated fire extinguisher shall be provided within a 75 feet travel distance to the fire location. A water hose that is effectively connected to a water bib and can be advanced to within 10 feet of the fire may serve as an alternative source.
- 3) If a natural gas provided fuel source is used, then the valve must be within 10 feet of the fire pit location.
- 4) Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet (7620 mm) of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

Permits (Construction)

- 1) Required for all fire pit submittals.

Permits (Operational)

- 1) Are not required for single family residential locations.
- 2) Permits may be required for all other locations and/or intended uses.

Submittal Requirements

- 1) All fire pits are required to be submitted for review Please submit a site plan indicating the proposed location of the fire pit on the property. Include the separation distances from property lines, structure and any combustible materials. (A copy of the survey works well if you have one)
- 2) Please include the size of the fire pit.
- 3) Please include the proposed fuel source (wood, natural gas, propane, and pellet).

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General Requirements

- 1) Installation, fabrication or otherwise construction is prohibited without approved plans and permit.
- 2) Each submittal shall have a completed Murphy Fire Department Plan Review/Permit Application.
- 3) Plans approved by the Fire Marshal's Office give authorization for construction. Final approvals are subject to field verification. Any approval issued by the Fire Marshal's Office does not release the contractor or property owner from the responsibility of full compliance with all applicable codes and ordinances relating to the construction project.
- 4) All installations must concur with the approved plans. Any deviation from the approved plans requires a re-submittal to the Fire Marshal's Office.
- 5) All fire department inspection forms and permits shall be kept in a permit packet on the job site until final inspection.

(This page contains mirrored text from the reverse side of the document, including sections for Definitions, Requirements, and Permits.)