



Life is better here

PORTABLE OUTDOOR FIRE PLACES (FIRE PITS)

Purpose:

This information is provided to help residents and visitors safely enjoy outdoor fires while complying with city and state fire regulations. A **recreational fire** is the burning of materials such as clean, dry firewood for pleasure, cooking, warmth in a portable fire pit, and outdoor fireplace.

This does not include yard debris burning, land clearing, or waste disposal.

Fire Code Requirements:

1. Size & Containment

- Maximum fire size: **3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height.**
- Fires must be in a **non-combustible, enclosed, and stable container** such as a fire pit, chiminea, or metal ring designed for burning.

2. Location

- Fire pits must be at least:
 - **25 feet** from any structure, combustible material, or property line for ground fires.
 - **15 feet** for portable outdoor fireplaces used on decks or patios (IFC 307.4.3).

3. Attendance & Control

- A responsible adult must attend the fire at all times.
- An extinguishing method (garden hose, bucket of water, or fire extinguisher) must be immediately available.
- The fire must be fully extinguished before leaving the area.
- The Fire Department may order any fire to be extinguished if it is unsafe or violates conditions of the code.

4. Portable Outdoor Fireplaces

- Must be used in accordance with manufacturer instructions.
- Not permitted on combustible decks, balconies, or within enclosed patios.

5. Beach & Public Property

- **Open fires, fire pits, and bonfires are prohibited** on public beaches unless authorized by the State of Alabama.

(Reference: 2021 International Fire Code, Section 307)