



YORK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY

Bonfires, Recreational Fires/ Chimineas/Outdoor Fireplaces

Bonfires - Inquiries regarding persons or groups desiring to have a bonfire shall be referred to the Prevention and Community Safety Division of the Department of Fire and Life Safety. Bonfires require a permit to be applied for, a site inspection and ultimately approval by the department. Bonfire permit applications can be found on the Department of Fire and Life Safety's website.

Approved bonfire permits typically require that the bonfire be located at least 50 feet from any structure on the permittee's property and not less than 250 feet from any structure on adjacent property. Bonfires shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable extinguisher (minimum size 3A40BC) or approved on-site fire extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, and garden hose shall be available for immediate utilization. Other conditions may be established as determined during the permit review and approval process.

Recreational fires (Defined as an outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish where the fuel burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, portable outdoor fireplace, barbeque or barbeque pit and has a total fuel area of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes) shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible materials (i.e., decks, fences, etc.). Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition. Recreational fires shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable extinguisher (minimum size 3A40BC) or approved on-site fire extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, and garden hose shall be available for immediate utilization.

Portable outdoor fireplaces are defined as portable, outdoor, solid fuel burning fireplaces that may be constructed of steel, concrete, clay or other noncombustible material. A portable outdoor fireplace may be open in design, or may be equipped with a small hearth opening and a short chimney or chimney opening in the top. This includes devices which are typically known as chimineas or fire pits. Portable outdoor fireplaces shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material. For single family detached dwellings, however, there is no distance requirement and use on combustible decks is not prohibited. Nevertheless, the public should be advised that they shall follow the manufacturer's instructions, but we further recommend adhering to the 15 foot distance from a structure or combustible material including not using them on decks. Portable outdoor fireplaces shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable extinguisher (minimum size 3A40BC) or approved on-site fire extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, and garden hose shall be available for immediate utilization.