



**VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS**  
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING & HEALTH SERVICES  
33 S. Arlington Heights Rd.  
Arlington Heights, IL 60005  
Phone (847) 368-5560  
Fax (847) 368-5975  
Website: [www.vah.com](http://www.vah.com)

## **GUIDELINES FOR OUTDOOR BURNING AND USING OUTDOOR FIREPLACES**

Outdoor open burning, recreational fires and portable outdoor fireplaces are regulated in accordance with the provisions described in the Village of Arlington Heights Fire Regulations, Chapter 27.

### **1. Bonfires, Recreational Fires and Open Burning**

- a. "BONFIRE" is defined as: "An outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes, pleasure, cooking, warmth or similar purposes having a total fuel area greater than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height."
- b. "RECREATIONAL FIRE" is defined as: "An outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, portable outdoor fireplace, barbeque grill 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."
- c. A person shall not kindle or maintain or authorize to be kindled or maintained any open burning unless conducted and approved in accordance with Section 307 of the 2009 Edition of the International Fire Code, as amended.
- d. Fuel for open burning shall consist only of seasoned firewood and shall be ignited with a small quantity of paper. The fire shall not be utilized for waste disposal purposes.
- e. A bonfire shall not be conducted within 50 feet of a structure or combustible material.
- f. Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material.

### **2. Portable Outdoor Fireplaces**

- a. "PORTABLE OUTDOOR FIREPLACE" is defined as: "A portable, outdoor, solid-fuel-burning fireplace 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 at the top."
- b. 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.
- c. The only exception to portable outdoor fireplaces includes their use at detached single family dwellings.

Open burning, bonfires, recreational fires and use of portable outdoor fireplaces shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished.