



CITY OF RIVERSIDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

FIRE PREVENTION BULLETIN: 2025-001

APPROVED BY: G. Coryell, Fire Marshal, REVISED: 1/30/2025

OPEN BURNING, RECREATIONAL FIRES & PORTABLE OUTDOOR FIREPLACES

This document is intended to provide information related to the application of the City of Riverside Municipal Code (RMC) Title 16, Chapter 32, Fire Prevention. Where applicable and or specified, this document shall serve as a rendered interpretation, policy, procedure, rule and or regulation of the California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 7, "California Wildland Urban Interface Code" (CWUIC) and Part 9, "California Fire Code" (CFC). Fire Prevention Bulletins are not intended to supersede requirements associated with a specific permit application, site, or condition.

OPEN BURNING

Definition (CFC 202): The burning of materials wherein products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber

International Code Council (ICC) International Fire Code (IFC) 2021 Code & Commentary: "...the definition has been revised to clarify that the use of portable outdoor fireplaces (also known as patio fireplaces) is specifically excluded..."

Applicable Requirements: Permit required (CFC 307.2), Distance to Structures (CFC 307.4), Site Plan review (CFC 104.2), Attendance and Fire Extinguishing Capabilities (CFC 307.5)

BONFIRE

Definition (CFC 202): An outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes.

ICC IFC 2021 Code & Commentary: "Bonfires are usually very large and are associated with a crowd activity."

Applicable Requirements: Permit required (CFC 307.2), Distance to Structures (CFC 307.4), Site Plan review (CFC 104.2), Attendance and Fire Extinguishing Capabilities (CFC 307.5).

RECREATIONAL FIRE

Definition (CFC 202): 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

ICC IFC 2021 Code & Commentary: "This kind of fire includes ordinary campfires and other small fires used for the activities listed. The definition has also been revised to clarify that the use of portable outdoor fireplaces (also known as patio fireplaces) is specifically included..."

Applicable Requirements: Fire shall be at least 25 feet from structure or other combustible material (CFC 307.4.2). Fire shall be constantly attended (CFC 307.5). A fire extinguisher, water source, or other approved extinguishment method shall be available for immediate use. (CFC 307.5)

PORTABLE OUTDOOR FIREPLACE

Definition (CFC 202): 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.

ICC IFC 2021 Code & Commentary: This definition describes a product or assembly that has often been treated as open burning... They come in many styles and designs, both open and enclosed...The design will typically include a stand or legs to elevate the firebox above the surface upon which it is placed to provide clearance to combustible materials.

Applicable Requirements For locations other than one- and two- family dwellings, fireplaces shall be used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and shall not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or other combustible material (CFC 307.4.3). Fire shall be constantly attended (CFC 307.5). For all locations, a fire extinguisher, water source, or other approved extinguishment method(s) shall be available for immediate use (CFC 307.5).

PERMIT INFORMATION

A City of Riverside Fire Department permit is required for open burning and or a bonfire. An approved permit application, and site plan review is required at least 24 hours prior to ignition of combustible material.

Permit fee: \$148.00

The site plan shall contain the following items:

- Property address and property owner contact information.
- Contact information for party responsible for attendance and extinguishment of fire.
- Point of compass, scale, and vicinity map.
- Buildings, structures, roads, trees, overhead utility lines, fences, gates and or combustible material within 100 feet of perimeter of proposed open burning or bonfire.
- Items to be burned, schedule of burning activity and method of ignition.
- Location and type(s) of fire extinguishing equipment.

The permit application, fee and site plan can be submitted online or in person. See links below for more information.

[ELECTRONIC SUBMITTAL](#)



[PAPER SUBMITTAL](#)



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