



City of Victorville

Fire Department

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Open Fire Conditions

Definitions

BBQ Pit – An outdoor fire in the ground with a fuel area no larger than 3' wide by 2' high specifically used to create coals for cooking.

Bonfire – Any outdoor open fire (including fires normally considered recreational fires, BBQ pits, or portable outdoor fireplaces) with a fuel area larger than 3' with by 2' high.

Portable Outdoor Fireplace – A non-fixed fireplace (including chimineas) constructed of any non-combustible material with a fuel area of no more than 3' wide by 2' high.

Recreational Fire – Any outdoor fire with a fuel area no larger than 3' wide by 2' high, is NOT contained in a portable outdoor fireplace, BBQ grill/pit, and is used for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth, etc. This is the typical campfire or fire ring.

Wildfire Risk Area – Any area within a Fire Safety Overlay, an area designated by a City or Town as a Very High Fire Severity Zone, High Fire Hazard Area, No Fireworks Safety Zone or any other land so designated by the Victorville Fire Department.

General Conditions

- All fires must be located and conducted in a manner which does not present a hazard.
- Expect for bonfires, all fuel areas shall be limited to 3' wide by 2' high.
- Fuels shall be limited to clean, dry wood or charcoal.
- Department staff can require that any fire be extinguished if a hazardous condition exists (such as flames are too high, the wind is blowing embers, extremely low humidity, etc.), or if the fire produces excessive, offensive or objectionable smoke.
- A minimum of a 4-A rated fire extinguisher and a water supply shall be immediately available (hose, water barrel, water truck, etc.).
- All fires must be attended by a responsible adult, 18 years or older, at all times until extinguished.
- Spark arrestors shall be used on all outdoor fireplaces or any other fire using a chimney (including chimineas).
- Open burning projects, residential/commercial wood/brushing burning, bonfires and BBQ pits shall not be kindled in a Wildfire Risk Area or within unless specifically permitted.
- Ashes/embers shall be placed only in a covered metal or other non-combustible container after being cooled with water. Ashes/embers shall not be placed in the trash, on the ground or on a combustible surface.
- **All fires (except BBQ's and recreational fires/portable outdoor fireplaces fueled by propane/natural gas) shall be prohibited and extinguished when winds exceed 10 mph, during Red Flag Warnings/Fire Weather Watches or when otherwise prohibited by the District and/or Federal or State agencies having jurisdiction.**
- On private property, permits shall only be issued to the property owner unless written permission from the owner is provided.
- Any fire where wire is burned to remove insulation, vehicles are burned to recover salvageable parts, trash, construction debris, treated wood, plastics, dead animals, tires, industrial wastes, hazardous materials/wastes, painted materials, rubber, furniture, equipment, cardboard, paper, or similar items are burned is strictly **PROHIBITED**.
- Fires in Wildfire Risk Areas shall only be kindled on private property or a designated campsite.
- Open burning within State Responsibility Areas (SRA), as well as Federal public lands (USFS/BLM) may require additional permits from the agency having jurisdiction.

Special Conditions

Open Burning Projects and Residential/Commercial Burning:

- MDAQMD – **No ignition prior to 6:00 am, no ignition after 12:00 noon**, no materials may be added to the fire after 3:00 pm, and fire shall be extinguished within one (1) hour of sunset.
- **The permittee shall contact ConFire at (800) 472-2376 or (909) 356-3805 to determine if it is a permissive burn day prior to ignition** as well as to prevent a Vegetation Fire Response from local fire agencies.
- All vegetation must be dried for the following periods prior to burning:
 - Fuels 2" in diameter or greater – 6 weeks
 - Fuels 1" in diameter and less than 2" – 4 weeks
 - Fuels ¼" in diameter and less than 1" – 3 weeks
 - Fuels less than ¼" – 10 days
- Burning in barrels is **PROHIBITED**.
- Burn piles shall be no more than 6' wide by 4' high.
- Piles shall be located no closer than 50' from any structure or combustible materials. EXCEPTION: Piles no more than 3' wide by 2' high may be located within 25' of a structure or combustibles.
- Piles shall be separated by a minimum of 10' and shall not be placed in a pit or depression.

Bonfires:

- All bonfires require a permit through the Office of the Fire Marshal.
- **Bonfires are PROHIBITED in Wildfire Risk Areas.** EXCEPTION: Within an organized camp or other location with the written permission by the Fire Code Official.
- Bonfires shall be located no closer than 50' from any structure or combustible materials.

Recreational Fires:

- Recreational fires confined to a permanent fire ring and fueled solely by natural gas or LPG/propane do not require a permit.
- Recreational fires shall be located no closer than 25' from any structure or combustibles. EXCEPTION: This distance may be reduced to 15' when confined to a permanent fire ring and fueled solely by natural gas or LPG/propane.

Portable Outdoor Fireplaces:

- Permits are required **ONLY** when used in a Wildfire Risk Area.
- Portable outdoor fireplaces fueled solely by natural gas or LPG/propane do not require a permit.
- Portable outdoor fireplaces are **PROHIBITED** on combustible patios/balconies of multi-family dwellings (apartments, condos, hotels, etc.) unless the patio/balcony is protected by fire sprinklers.
- Portable outdoor fireplaces shall be located no closer than 15' to a structure or combustible materials. EXCEPTION: Portable outdoor fireplaces used at a private, single-family residence may be located on patios, decks or balconies if the combustion area is not in direct contact with combustibles.

BBQ Pits:

- **BBQ pits are PROHIBITED in Wildfire Risk Areas.** EXCEPTION: Within an organized camp or other location with the written permission by the Victorville Fire Department.
- BBQ pits shall be located no closer than 20' from any structure or combustible material.

Covered BBQs:

- BBQs do not require a permit.
- BBQs are **PROHIBITED** on combustible patios/balconies of multi-family dwellings (apartments, condos, hotels, etc.) unless the patio/balcony is protected by fire sprinklers.