



Recreational Fires and Portable Outdoor Fireplaces

Note: All references are to the 2015 edition of the International Fire Code (IFC) as adopted and amended by Washington State and Whatcom County.

Definitions

OPEN BURNING: The burning of materials wherein products of combustion are emitted directly into ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber. Open burning does NOT include ...recreational fires or use of portable outdoor fireplaces. *(This is for yard debris and land-clearing fires only)*

RECREATIONAL FIRE: 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.

PORTABLE OUTDOOR FIREPLACE: 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 in the top.

Requirements

(IFC 307.1.1) **Prohibited open burning.** Open burning shall be prohibited when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous. (winds, burn ban, air stagnation events, etc.)

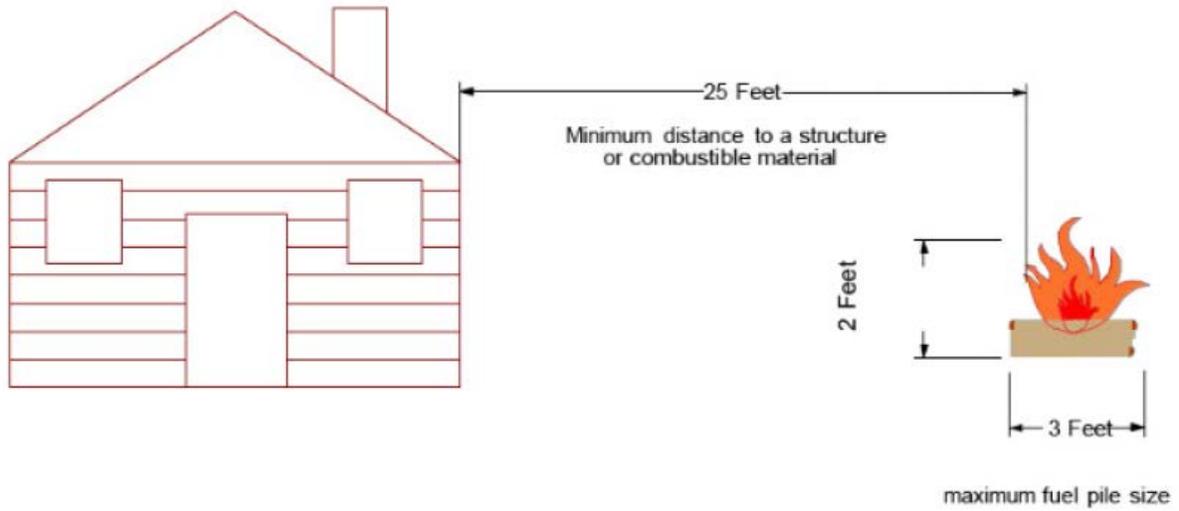
(IFC 307.3) **Extinguishment authority.** Where open burning creates or adds to a hazardous situation, or a required permit for open burning has not been obtained, the fire code official is authorized to order the extinguishment of the open burning operation.

(IFC 307.4.2) **Recreational fires.** Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

(IFC 307.4.3) **Portable outdoor fireplaces.** 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. (Portable fireplaces at one-and two-family dwellings are not required to meet the 15 foot distance, but this distance should be used for safety)

(IFC 308.1.4) **Open-flame cooking devices.** Charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction. (Unless it is at a one- and two-family dwelling or the balcony is protected by an automatic sprinkler system). *Note: Gas fueled fire pits are in this category.*

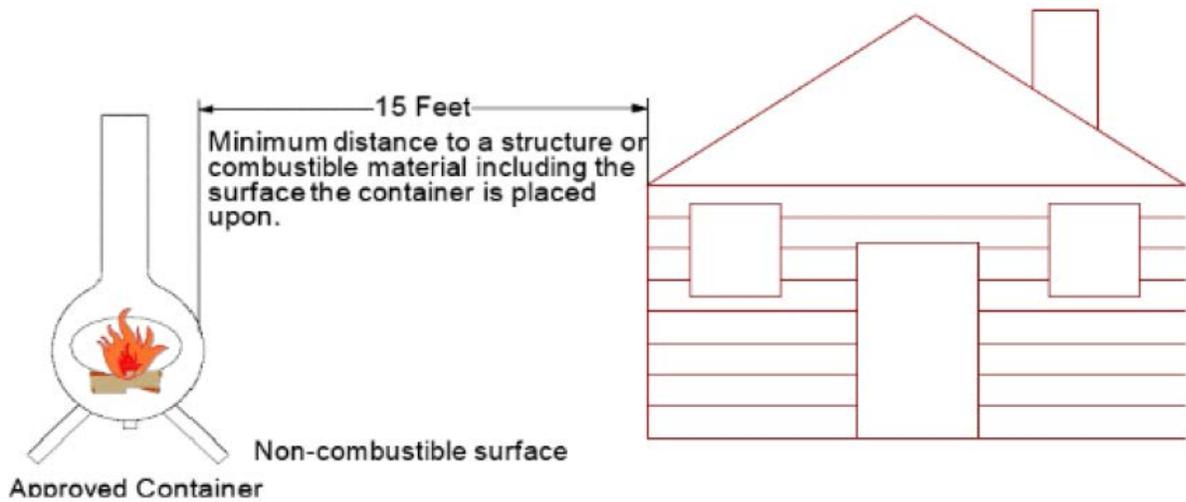
Recreational Fires (Wood Fire Pit)



EXAMPLE:



Portable outdoor fireplaces (Wood)



EXAMPLES:

