



Fire Prevention Bureau

Information Bulletin

Bonfires (Open Burning)

Definition: A bonfire is an outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes.

Below are the basic requirements for a Bonfire (Open Burning). Additional requirements may exist. Contact the Fire Marshal's Office for more information, including applicable permits.

- A fire permit is required for the kindling or maintaining of an open fire or fire on any public street, alley, road or other public or private ground. All permit instructions and stipulations must be adhered to.
- Permit applications must be submitted online at least 5 business days prior to the event.
- A site plan illustrating the exact location on the property where the bonfire will take place must be submitted. NOTE: Site inspection may be required for final permit approval.
- A written letter that includes the following must be submitted:
 - A named designee who will attend the fire from the time it begins until the fire is extinguished and who will remain on-site for at least 30 minutes after the fire is extinguished.
 - Emergency contact information for the designee.
 - Confirmation that water hoses or other extinguishing agents will be present during the fire.
 - Confirmation that the fire will be no larger than 5' x 5' x 5'.
 - Confirmation that only seasoned dried wood will be used for the fire.
 - Confirmation that the selected location for the fire is at least 50 feet from any structure.
- The bonfire must not be conducted within 50 feet of a structure or combustible material unless the fire is contained in a barbeque pit. Conditions that could cause a fire to spread within 50 feet of a structure must be eliminated prior to ignition.
- Open Burning is prohibited when atmospheric conditions stated by the SC Forestry Commission/local authorities or local circumstances make such fires hazardous.
- 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.

For more information, contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at 864-467-4450.