



FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

ADMINISTRATIVE RULINGS

Policies/Interpretations

12.1

Recreational Fires

SCOPE: To establish the requirements for Recreational Fires. Recreational Fires shall meet the following definition and adhere to the minimum requirements listed below. The Fire Department is authorized to prohibit or discontinue Recreational Fires if they constitute a hazardous condition. Ref. AP 14202 "Burning Permits", AP 14003 "Camp Fires", and the Fire Code.

DEFINITIONS

RECREATIONAL/CAMP FIRE: The burning of materials other than rubbish where fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, barbecue grill or barbecue pit. The total fuel area shall be 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking or similar purposes.

HAZARDOUS FIRE AREA: Land which is covered with grass, grain, brush or forest, whether privately or publicly owned, which is so situated or is of such inaccessible location that a fire originating upon such land would present an abnormally difficult job of suppression or would result in great and unusual damage through fire or resulting erosion. Such areas shall be determined by the Fire Prevention Bureau.

BURNING PERMITS: Burn permits for agricultural purposes are obtained from the nearest fire station and are subject to many conditions. See Administrative Policy 14202.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Recreational/Camp Fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material. Conditions that could cause a fire to spread to within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.
2. Buckets, shovels, garden hoses or a fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating shall be readily available for use for all Recreational/Camp Fires.
3. Recreational/Camp Fires shall be constantly attended by a person knowledgeable in the use of the fire extinguishing equipment on site.
4. Recreational/Camp Fires or other fires are unlawful for any purpose on any public street, sidewalk or beach, or against or adjacent to any public bulkhead or other public structure(s) in unincorporated areas of the County. See Administrative Policy 14003.

5. Recreational/Camp Fires in hazardous fire areas shall be approved by the Fire Prevention Bureau but shall not be built, ignited, or maintained when the following conditions are present:
 - A. High winds are blowing.
 - B. A person age 17 or over is not present at all times to watch and tend the fire.
 - C. A public announcement is made prohibiting open burning.

6. When all the conditions of this policy are met and prior to igniting a Recreational/Camp Fire, the Fire Communications Center shall be notified at the following non-emergency number (805) 388-4279. Provide specific details of location, time and duration of the fire and indicate that all required safety precautions have been met.