

**When enjoying a fire pit,
please keep a few
thoughts in mind...**

Be prepared to extinguish the fire.

Always keep a hose, water supply, sand bucket or fire extinguisher within reach when using your outdoor fireplace or fire pit. At the end of the evening make sure your fire is completely out before leaving your outdoor fireplace or fire pit unattended.

Be courteous to your neighbors.

Check with your neighbors, they may have a medical condition that could be severely affected by the smoke from your fire. If wind conditions exist that can blow the smoke into their homes, refrain from burning or relocate the fire pit to a different area in your yard.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the information in the pamphlet, please contact the Palatine Fire Department's Fire Prevention Division at: 847-359-9029.



**Completely
extinguish your
fire pit after
every use...**

**VILLAGE OF
PALATINE
Fire Prevention**

**FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION
200 E. WOOD STREET
PALATINE, IL 60067**

**WWW.PALATINE.IL.US/FIREPREVENTION
PHONE: 847-359-9029**

**VILLAGE OF
PALATINE
Fire Prevention**

FIRE PITS AND BONFIRES

**FREQUENTLY ASKED
QUESTIONS AND
CONCERNS**



Important Definitions:

Recreational fires are those that are typically found in the backyards of a single family home; essentially a “campfire” generally attended by a small number of people.

Bonfires are typically centered around religious, recreational, assembly or educational events where there could be 50 people or more in attendance. Bonfires require a Village of Palatine permit, which can be obtained from the Palatine Fire Department’s Fire Prevention Division. You can contact them at (847) 359-9029.

The Village’s requirements for outdoor fires can be found in the 2015 edition of the International Fire Code, section 307.

Open Burning / Fire Pit Rules and Regulations

Nuisance Law - Fires that are offensive or objectionable because of smoke or odor emissions when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited. The Palatine Fire and Police Departments are authorized to order the extinguishment of any objectionable recreational fire or bonfire.

Recreational fires in an approved location (In a commercially manufactured UL Listed fire pit or fire place with a screen to prevent flying embers or constructed under a village permit.) shall be at least 15 feet from any structure including sheds and wood fences.

Recreational fires in an unapproved container shall be 25 feet or more from any structure including sheds and wood fences. Provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 25 feet of any structure.

- All recreational fires are limited to a maximum burning wood pile of 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height.
- Built in outdoor fireplaces and pits require a building permit from the Village of Palatine.
- Recreational or bonfires, shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished.
- On site extinguishing equipment shall always be available for immediate use.

Outdoor Fire Pit and Fire Place Safety Tips

- **Keep safety your first consideration.** Never leave an outdoor fireplace or fire pit unattended because the wind can suddenly gust or shift direction. Worse, children or pets can unexpectedly bump into or fall onto the fire and never allow children to play with the fire materials.
- **Select your firewood to minimize smoke.** Burn clean cut wood only. Well seasoned hardwoods such as Oak & Hickory produce less smoke than unseasoned wood or softwood. The burning of any rubbish, leaves, other combustible refuse, or construction material is prohibited.
- **Start with a small fire.** The first time you use your outdoor fireplace or fire pit, use minimal fuel. Learn how your outdoor fireplace or fire pit draws air, how it responds to changes in wind direction, and how long it burns before you need to add more wood.
- **Use the protective covering.** If your outdoor fireplace or fire pit comes with a protective cover, use it to shield your outdoor fireplace or fire pit from the elements.
- **Use the screen.** Most outdoor fireplaces and fire pits have mesh screens. This will help contain sparks and burning debris within the fire pit.



If your fire grows out of control...