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West Valley City
Fire Department
Fire Prevention Division
(801) 963-3336



Fire Safety

RECREATIONAL BURNING

Welcome

Due to the requirements of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the Utah State Division of Air Quality, and Salt Lake County, this city in conjunction with other jurisdictions does not allow open burning or issue burn permits for the purpose of burning yard waste and garbage. However, the International Fire Code does allow for some types of Recreational Burning for events such as cooking fires, ambience for gatherings, and training under tight and stringent rules and regulations for the benefit and safety of the Community. This Recreational Burning allowance is limited and at the convenience of West Valley City and may be terminated for misuse or other just cause.

Rules of Safety:

Conditions

- **International Fire Code 307.1.1, Prohibited open burning.** Open burning that is offensive or objectionable because of smoke or odor emissions or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited.
- Recreational burning may only be allowed on “Green Burn Days” and or lower limit EPA clean air days.
- Wind conditions must be favorable for neighborhood burning. **Smoke may not cross over a neighbor’s fence line without their permission.**
- Fire must be kept contained at a reasonable size for the back or side yard area and small enough to control. (Bon fires are not allowed.)
- Cooking, educational or small event ambience fires are allowed.

Area

- **International Fire Code 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.



- Attempts should be made to keep the fire at or near the center of the back yard area. Away from overhanging branches, objects or structures.
- Combustible materials shall be kept a minimum of 10 feet from the fire or fire pit.
- Flammable or combustible liquids shall not be used at or near a fire.
- Small children shall not be left unattended or play at or near the fire or fire pit.

Safety and Equipment

- **International Fire Code 307.5 Attendance.** Open burning or recreational fires shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A portable fire extinguisher with a minimum rating of 4-A, and other on site extinguishing equipment such as a garden hose, shall be available for immediate utilization.
- An active water hose shall be maintained while any heat of fire remains. (Hot embers)

Information

Prior to the event, it is required that the neighbors be notified of the time and location of the fire event. VECC or Dispatch must be informed of the fire. (801-840-4000). They will require:

- The address of the burn.
- The name of the responsible person on scene.
- The phone number of that responsible person.
- The time the fire is to be ignited and the approximate time of extinguishment.
- Dispatch must be notified when the fire is extinguished.
- VECC may deny or cancel the fire event for cause.

Cause for cancelling the event

- **International Fire Code 307.3 Extinguishment authority.** The fire code official is authorized to order the extinguishment by the responsible person or the fire department of open burning that creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation.
- Smoke, vapors, fumes or smells emanating from a fire into a neighbors house is cause to cancel the fire event by extinguishing the fire.
- Unsafe, or illegal actions at or near the fire or playing with fire is cause to extinguish the fire.
- A neighbor's complaint of smoke in the area or of an open burn is cause to extinguish the fire.
- An alarm drop or response of emergency responders (Police or Fire) is cause to extinguish the fire. This response may be cause for an enforcement citation or ticket.