



**EAST LAKE TARPON
SPECIAL FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT**
3375 Tarpon Lake Blvd.
Palm Harbor, FL 34685
727-784-8668 fax: 727-474-5830
www.elfr.org

Information Bulletin: District Open Burning Policy

The East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control District has the authority under NFPA 1 and Pinellas County Ordinance 58, Article V, to require open burning fires used for recreational purposes to be immediately extinguished if the fire is too close to a structure or combustible material; not contained in an approved manner; or constitutes a hazardous condition due to atmospheric conditions or local circumstances.

In reference to open burning in NFPA 1, Fire Prevention Code 2015 Edition:

10.10.4.3 - Recreational fires shall not be located within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material unless contained in an approved manner.

10.10.10 – Discontinuance. The AHJ (East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control District) shall be authorized to require any fire to be immediately discontinued if the fire is determined to constitute a hazardous condition.

However, the East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control District does not have the authority to require or request open burning to be extinguished if all NFPA 1 and Pinellas County Ordinance 58 Article V requirements are met, and the open burning is only considered a nuisance to neighboring occupancies. Open burning that is only considered a nuisance falls under the jurisdiction of Pinellas County Air Quality (727.464.4422). Please refer to the county ordinance for further information.

East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control District and NFPA 1 require the following safety regulations for recreational open burning:

1. Open burning shall be at least 25 feet from any structure or combustibles.
2. The fire shall be kept in an approved contained manner.
3. Do not have any open burning under any low hanging trees or close to vegetation.
4. The fire shall be constantly attended by a competent adult until such fire is extinguished.
5. The person attending the fire shall have a garden hose connected to the water supply or other fire extinguishing equipment readily available for use.
6. Never use any flammable or combustible liquids to start or accelerate the fire's growth.
7. If you have a commercial fire pit, burn pit, or chimney device only use per the manufacturers specifications.
8. Never wear loose fitting clothing to start the fire or when attending the open burning.
9. When possible limit and/or extinguish hot embers produced by the fire.
10. If for any reason the fire becomes uncontrollable, get clear of the area and call 911.

We hope that everyone is respectful of our neighbors and keeps safety in mind while performing any open burning activities.

Please contact Deputy Chief Jason Gennaro at 727.784.8668 ext. 205 or via email at jgennaro@elfr.org if you have additional questions regarding open burning.