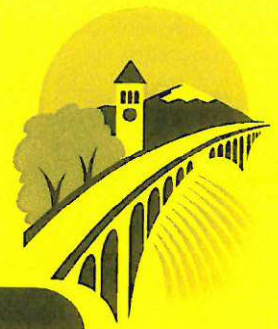


Recreational Fires

including backyard pits and patio heaters

A Message from the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency



Recreational Fires include charcoal or wood cooking fires and campfires that occur in designated areas or on private property. Fires lit in fire pits, chimneas, fire bowls and similar free-standing devices, commonly sold at home improvement stores and mass retailers, fall under this definition. These devices are allowed throughout Spokane County as long as requirements are followed.

Recreational fires may be no larger than three feet in diameter and two feet in height, and may not be used as disposal fires. A permit is not required, although requirements (outlined below) must be followed.

Social event fires are those larger than three feet in diameter and two feet in height. They are restricted to public events or celebrations and require a written permit. These fires cannot be used for the purpose of disposal. A complete permit application and \$55 nonrefundable fee must be submitted at least 10 working days prior to the event. Contact Spokane Clean Air, 477-4727 for details

and an application. The Spokane Fire Department also requires a permit for social event fires. Call 625-7000.

Rules to Follow – It is important that rules are followed whenever you have a recreational fire.

- ▶ The only legal fuels are charcoal, natural gas, propane or firewood. Wood must be dry, clean and natural (untreated) or manufactured logs. The fire cannot be used for disposal purposes.
- ▶ Portable devices must be kept 15 feet away from all structures and combustibles; open fire pits must be 25 feet from all structures, combustibles. Spokane Clean Air can enforce a 50 foot setback, per state rule WAC 173-425-050(6)(b), particularly if the agency receives complaints about smoke or odors from the rec fire.

- ▶ The fire may not cause a nuisance to your neighbors with excessive smoke and odors.
- ▶ Check for temporary restrictions before using your device. During the dry summer, burning is often restricted due to fire danger. These restrictions are issued by fire officials and relayed on the Burn Ban Status hotline: 477-4710, and at SpokaneCleanAir.org. In some cases, outdoor burning may be temporarily restricted by Spokane Clean Air based on air quality conditions.

Smoke & Your Health – Burning even natural,

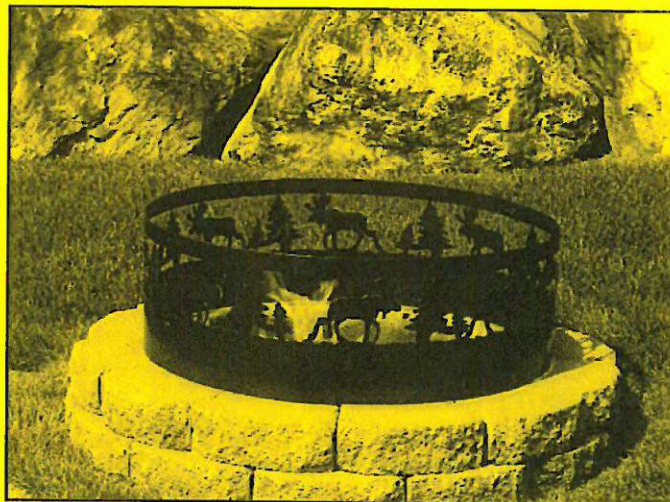
untreated fire wood emits smoke particles that can affect you, your family members and neighbors. Smoke particles contain toxic compounds. When inhaled, tiny particles collect in the lungs, causing structural and chemical changes, as well as damage to the alveoli (tiny air sacs where oxygen enters the blood stream).

Those at greatest health risk from breathing wood smoke are young children, the elderly, and people with chronic heart and lung diseases.

Things to Consider – Spokane Clean Air discourages the use of wood-fueled recreational fires in dense, urban areas due to the likelihood of increased smoke and odor impacts to neighbors. There are many patio heaters and fire pits that use natural gas, propane or electricity.

Building permits may be required for installing recreational fire devices (gas/propane appliances). Check with your local building department.

Other local rules may apply to recreational-type fires, such as homeowner association covenants, rental agreements, etc.—so be sure to check your contracts.



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