

OPEN FIRE PITS & RECREATIONAL FIRES

Fire pits are increasing with popularity and fire safety has become even more important. There are many things you should consider while setting up and using a fire pit outdoors.

These regulations are put in place for several reasons which include controlling fires from becoming out of control or improper handling, as well as avoiding the dispatching of fire apparatus/equipment when they are needed for emergencies. Regulations below pertain to chimineas, fire pits, and outdoor fireplaces.



Prior to having a fire, contact the Holden Fire Department at 508-210-5650 X 0 to make us aware of your outdoor fire.

Always use common sense and follow the regulations below:

- Reasonable size cooking fire and fire pit (no bonfires allowed)
- Do not cause a nuisance or health hazard to your neighbors. Never use wet or damp wood. This creates needless, irritating smoke. Always use dry seasoned wood, charcoal, or specialist fuel (e.g. wood burning briquettes). If the Holden Fire Department receives complaints from neighbors that the smoke or smell is bothersome, we will investigate, and if deemed necessary, you may be instructed to extinguish the fire. See MGL Chapter 148 & 527 CMR / MGL Chapter 48, Section 13.
- Must be in a container designed or engineered for fire safety and outdoor use
- No burning of trash, leaves, construction materials, stumps, hay, grass, flammable materials, household & yard waste, vegetation, petroleum products, milled lumber, weather treated, or painted materials
- Cooking fire shall not be up against combustible materials
- Fire shall not be left unattended at any time
- Spot checks of cooking fires will be conducted as necessary
- Fire must be fully extinguished before leaving site
- A means of extinguishment must be on site
- Fuel used for cooking fires shall be natural gas & propane, charcoal, dry seasoned natural wood
- Cooking food is not permitted on or near a balcony of an apartment or multi-family residence
- Residents may construct their own outdoor fireplace/fire pit. It must be constructed of masonry, concrete, stone, or heavy gage steel.
- The Fire Department may prohibit residents from burning if weather conditions or other circumstances render such fires to be hazardous to life or property.

If you have questions on the use of open fire pits and recreational fires, call Holden Fire Prevention Division at 508-210-5650.