



**MONARCH FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
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## **PORTABLE OUTDOOR FIREPLACES**

### *CHIMINEAS, FIRE PITS & SIMILAR SOLID-FUEL-BURNING DEVICES*

#### **FIRE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS & PROHIBITIONS**

1. **Manufacturer's Instructions.** Portable outdoor fireplaces shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
2. **Location.** Portable outdoor fireplaces shall not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material. The sole exception to this prohibition applies to portable outdoor fireplaces used at one- and two-family dwellings.

*When these devices are operated on combustible balconies and decks, noncombustible protective insulating materials such as patio blocks/pavers or a hearth pad should be used to help protect the surface of the balcony or deck from radiant heat and stray embers provided the manufacturer does not specifically prohibit the use of their particular brand of portable outdoor fireplace on combustible balconies and decks.*

3. **Attendance.** The use of portable outdoor fireplaces shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. Do not leave smoldering fires unattended. If you allow a fire to smolder, it is not completely extinguished. Completely extinguish the fire including all hot ashes, cinders, embers, and smoldering coals. Then, properly and safely dispose of leftover ashes. **Read more about disposal of ashes on page two of this publication.**
4. **Extinguishing Equipment.** Fire-extinguishing equipment, such as a minimum of one portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating or other approved on-site fire-extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck, shall be available for immediate utilization.

*Use caution when applying water directly to ceramic/clay portable outdoor fireplaces, chimineas, or fire pits, as sudden application of cool water may cause the device to crack which could result in loss of containment of burning materials (i.e., hot ashes, embers, etc.). Consult the manufacturer's instructions for precautions concerning the application of water.*

5. **Quantity of Fuel.** Do not overload the burn chamber or firebox of any portable outdoor fireplace with too much fuel. Make a fire that is suitable in size for the device. Use only the quantity of allowable fuel the device is designed to hold in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, limitations, or safety guidelines. *A fire that is too large not only wastes fuel, but can damage the device and cause a hazardous fire condition.*
6. **Allowable Fuel.** Burn only dry, well-seasoned hardwood that has been split properly (i.e., firewood) or commercial fireplace logs, or charcoal. Firewood contains little moisture creating less polluting smoke when burned and should be dried for 6 to 12 months minimum. In addition, burning of materials should be in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, limitations, or safety guidelines.
7. **Burning of Refuse Prohibited.** The burning of refuse in a portable outdoor fireplace is NOT an approved method for refuse disposal and is prohibited. *The definition of refuse shall mean and include garbage, rubbish, and trade waste defined as follows:*
  - **Garbage.** Garbage shall mean animal and vegetable matter such as that originating in

houses, kitchens, restaurants and hotels, produce markets, food service or processing establishments, greenhouses, and hospitals, clinics or veterinary facilities.

- **Rubbish.** Rubbish shall mean solids not considered to be highly flammable or explosive such as, but not limited to, rags, old clothes, leather, rubber, carpets, wood, excelsior, paper, ashes, tree branches, yard trimmings, furniture, metal food containers, glass, crockery, masonry, and other similar materials.
- **Trade Waste.** Trade waste shall mean all solid or liquid material resulting from construction, building operations, or the prosecution of any business, trade or industry such as, but not limited to, plastic products, cinders, and other forms of solid or liquid waste materials.

8. **Materials Producing Dense Smoke Prohibited.**

The burning of rubber, asphaltic materials, combustible and flammable liquids, impregnated wood or similar materials which produce dense smoke is considered objectionable, a hazard and nuisance to the community, and is strictly prohibited.

9. **Ignitable Liquids and/or Hazardous Materials Prohibited.** Combustible and flammable liquids, as well as other hazardous materials, shall not be used to aid the ignition of a fire in a portable outdoor fireplace. Furthermore, the application, dispensing, or use of a combustible or flammable liquid, or any other hazardous material, upon or into the fuel used in any portable outdoor fireplace may be considered an unauthorized release of a hazardous material and is strictly prohibited.

**DISPOSAL OF ASHES**

**Safe Disposal.** After the fire is completely extinguished, dispose of leftover ashes in a safe and lawful manner. ***Ashes removed from the portable outdoor fireplace must be thoroughly dampened and cooled, then deposited in a covered metal can or other suitable noncombustible container used solely for ash storage.*** Ashes must be disposed of in accordance with the law.

**It's the Law!** In accordance with Section 305.2 of the Fire Prevention Code, hot ashes, cinders, smoldering coals shall not be deposited in a combustible receptacle, within 10 feet of other combustible material including combustible walls and partitions or within 2 feet of openings to buildings. The minimum required separation distance to other combustible materials shall be 2 feet where the material is deposited in a covered, noncombustible receptacle placed on a noncombustible floor, ground surface or stand.

**Don't Be Careless.** Do not discard leftover ashes into a plastic bag, paper bag, cardboard box or anything that is combustible. ***Ashes that are two or three days old may appear to be cool and safe, but can still retain enough heat to cause an unwanted fire.*** Also, be careful in handling partially burned wood; the wood may still be smoldering and could cause a burn injury.

<p>If you have any questions regarding the fire safety requirements and prohibitions related to the operation and storage of portable outdoor fireplaces, contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at 314-514-0900, ext. 309 during regular office hours, Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.</p>
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