



# **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **FIRE MARSHAL POLICY**

### **Open Burning**

#### **A. CODE REQUIREMENT AND PROBLEM**

The Everett Municipal Code and the 2012 International Fire Code, place specific restrictions on outdoor burning. In the City of Everett only recreational fires are allowed. This policy clarifies the requirements for recreational fires.

#### **B. POLICY**

##### **OPEN BURNING AND RECREATIONAL FIRES**

307.1 General. It shall be unlawful and a public nuisance for any person to kindle or maintain or authorize to be kindled or maintained any open burning within this city unless conducted and approved in accordance with this section.

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.

307.2. Exemptions.

307.2.1 Recreational fires. Recreational fires are allowed without permit under the following circumstances:

1. Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material unless in an approved appliance with a clearly visible manufacturer's listing and installed per manufacturer's listing. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.
2. Fires shall be limited to three feet in diameter and two feet in height.
3. Only dry, seasoned wood may be burned. Construction scraps, green wood, shrub trimmings, leaves, and other refuse are prohibited for use as fuel.

4. If a recreational fire is on a salt water beach, it shall not be located in areas where substantial driftwood accumulations exist.

5. Portable outdoor fireplaces. Portable outdoor fireplaces shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material.

Exception: Portable outdoor fireplaces used at one- and two-family dwellings.

#### 307.2.2 Bonfires.

Notwithstanding the language in 307.2.1, bonfires do require a permit and shall not be conducted within 50 feet of a structure or combustible material unless the fire is contained in a barbecue pit. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 50 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition. Only dry, seasoned wood may be burned. Construction scraps, green wood, shrub trimmings, leaves, and other refuse are prohibited for use as fuel. If a bonfire is on a salt water beach, it shall not be located in areas where substantial driftwood accumulations exist.

307.2.3 Fire hazard prevention. At the discretion of the Fire Code Official, fires for the prevention of a fire hazard are allowed under permit from the Everett Fire Department, provided no alternate means of prevention is reasonably available.

307.2.4 Instruction and testing. Fires for instruction of public officials in methods of firefighting, testing fire resistance of materials, or testing fire protection equipment are allowed, provided prior written approval has been issued by the control officer of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency and the Everett Fire Code Official or his designee.

307.3 Extinguishment Authority. In addition to any powers vested in the control officer of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, the Fire Code Official or his designee is authorized to order the extinguishment by the person who kindled and/or is maintaining the fire, the permit holder, or the fire department, of open burning which creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation, where a violation of this chapter is found, or because of any false statement or misrepresentation as to a material fact in the information or plans submitted on which the right to burn was based.

307.4 Location. The location for allowed open burning shall not be less than 51 feet from any structure, and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 50 feet of any structure. If any provision of this section requires a smaller distance from a structure, that provision shall be complied with.

307.5 Attendance. All allowed open burning shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher complying with the Everett Fire Code 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 use. A fire shall not be considered extinguished unless one can handle the ashes without protection.

C. PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

1. A crew responding to an outdoor fire shall evaluate the fire for classification as a safe recreational fire, or safe and permitted bonfire, using the above guidelines. Any fire not meeting the above criteria shall be extinguished, either by the users or by the responding crew.
2. Repeated non-recreational and/or non-permitted outdoor burning shall subject the property owner or violator to enforcement under the guidelines of the Everett Municipal Code or the International Fire Code.
3. Call (425) 257-8120 for more information.

D. RATIONALE

To ensure that outdoor burning requirements are clearly stated and well understood by Everett Fire Department personnel and by Everett's citizens for improved safety and enhanced quality of life.

Reference: Everett Municipal Code, Chapter 16.03 and 2012 IFC, Section 307

Approved by: Everett Fire Marshal's Office