FIRE PIT INFORMATION SHEET
CONSTRUCTION /OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Purpose:

- This information sheet provides information for the construction and dimensions of approved fire pits and the manner in which fire pits are to be operated.

Fire Pit Types:

- A fire pit may be above the ground and constructed in a manner to prevent burning material from falling out of the container.
- A fire pit may be below the ground to form a depression which will contain burning material.
- A fire pit may be a secured portable/commercially-sold fire bowl, fire place, or chiminea, etc.
- A fire pit may be of other types of non-combustible material not addressed in the information sheet but must be approved by the Fire Chiefs’ Office.

Fire Pit Dimensions:

- A fire pit is not to exceed one (1) meter inside diameter or equivalent size if square or rectangular (area of 1 meter).
- An above ground fire pit’s height is not to exceed .5 meter (500mm) when measured from grade to the top of the fire pit opening (exceptions are the portable/commercially-sold fire pits).
- A portable/commercially-sold fire bowl, fire place, or chiminea, etc. is not to exceed a depth of 0.5 meters nor a height of 1.5 meters.
- A below ground fire pit’s depth is not to exceed 0.5 meter (500mm) when measured from grade to the bottom of the fire pit opening.

Location of Fire Pits:

- The outside edge of a fire pit is not to be located within three (3) meters of any structure/deck. (a deck is classified as a combustible structure).
- Fire pits may be on a property line, adjacent to green space, providing that they do not affect other properties. It will be the fire pit owner’s responsibility to re-locate fire pit should development occur after installation.
- A fire pit is not to be located within five (5) meters of flammable/combustible fuel tanks or compressed gas cylinders.
• A fire pit is not to be located directly under any electrical services unless these services exceed a height of 5 meters
• A fire pit shall be located on the owner’s property

**Portable/Commecially Sold Fire Pits**

• Portable/commercially-sold fire pits must meet Fire Department requirements.
• Portable fire pits must be permanently affixed and immovable. (Light bracing is unacceptable, residents must ensure pits are securely fastened or are buried to a depth that renders the pit immovable). They must meet all other requirements outlined in the regulations

**Fire Pit Construction:**

• All fire pits are to be cemented together if constructed from bricks and masonry products (exception – interlocking cement blocks designed for fire pits)
• Heavy gauge steel or other non-combustible materials can be accepted by the Fire Chiefs’ Office
• Except for fire pits sitting directly on rock outcrop, all fire pits will be located on a gravel or sand base of a minimum depth of twenty five (25) centimeters [ten (10) inches]. If the fire pit is placed on patio stones, the patio stones will sit on a gravel or sand base of a minimum of twenty (20) centimeters [eight (8) inches.]
• Except for fire pits sitting directly on a rock outcrop, the fire pit will be ringed by a minimum width and depth of twenty five (25) cubic centimeters [ten (10) cubic inches] of gravel or sand
• All fire pit openings will be covered with a steel mesh screen with spacing no larger than 1.25cm [0.5 inches] in order to contain and/or reduce airborne sparks (exception: flu pipes not exceeding 15 centimeters [6 inches] in diameter.)
• All fire pits must be permanent to prevent components from failing, being removed, or falling apart, causing unprotected openings
• All fire pits must be permanently fixed to property and/or not be readily movable from their approved location

**Fire Pit Considerations:**

• A fire pit may be used only for outside recreational enjoyment or cooking.
• Only approved materials such as dry seasoned firewood or cooking material such as charcoal will be burned in fire pits
  o Prohibited materials include but are not limited to grass, leaves, brush, manufactured products (i.e. paper), biological waste, garbage, construction debris, etc.
• The operators of fire pits will discontinue burning if any of the following conditions/hazards are present:
  o Smoke direction is causing discomfort to nearby persons
  o Airborne sparks may cause damage to nearby property
  o Wind causes hazardous burning conditions
  o A burning ban is in effect
• A fire pit will not be left operating unattended
• A fire pit will be under the supervision of an adult at all times when in use
• A Burning Permit is not required for the operation of an approved fire pit
• It is the owner/occupant’s responsibility to maintain the integrity of the fire pit, once approved
• If the ownership of the property changes, the fire pit shall be re-inspected before use and a new letter of approval will be issued

**Improper use of Fire Pits/Enforcement Considerations:**

A fire in an approved fire pit will be extinguished and charges may be laid if any of the following unsafe burning practices occur:
• Fire in a fire pit is left unattended
• No responsible adult supervision
• Smoke or airborne sparks are found to be presenting a threat or discomfort to nearby property, structures or persons
• Excessive wind conditions are affecting the safe operation of the fire pit
• Unauthorized alterations or changes are found to have been made to the fire pit and/or its location
• The fire exceeds the capacity of the fire pit
• The fire pit is found to be in a state of disrepair and/or components of the fire pit are found to be missing (i.e. Spark arresters)
• Improper materials are being burned in the fire pit
• Inadequate means of fire suppression equipment readily available
• Fire pit found to be used for other reasons other than cooking or recreational use
• Any special or common hazards being presented as determined by the Yellowknife Fire Department

**Extraordinary Requests:**

• Any extraordinary requests related to fire pits can be directed to the Chief’s Office for review and consideration for approval