



THE CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

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



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- 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/Commercially 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
 - Prohibited materials include but are not limited to grass, leaves, brush, manufactured products (i.e. paper), biological waste, garbage, construction debris, etc.



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- The operators of fire pits will discontinue burning if any of the following conditions/hazards are present:
 - Smoke direction is causing discomfort to nearby persons
 - Airborne sparks may cause damage to nearby property
 - Wind causes hazardous burning conditions
 - 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