



FOUNTAIN INN FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE – COMPLIANCE DIVISION

Informational Bulletin

Recreational Fires

While many find enjoyment cooking over and/or sitting around a fire, it is important to recognize the hazards fire presents. For the safety of all citizens, outdoor fires and open flames are regulated by local municipal codes, South Carolina Fire Codes as well as the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services. The information provided in this bulletin is regarding recreational fires only. The Fire Marshal's Office should be contacted to obtain proper permits and discuss any outdoor burning that does not meet the criteria and/or definition of a recreational fire.

Definition

A recreational fire is defined as an outdoor fire that has a total fuel area of no more than 3-feet in diameter and 2-feet in height and is used for pleasure, cooking, warmth, or similar purposes.

Rules & Regulations:

- 1) No fire should be ignited when a burn ban is in place or when conditions would make the ignition of a fire unsafe.
- 2) The fire must be contained in an appropriate container, pit, or fire ring and be a minimum of 15-feet from any structure.
- 3) Only clean, untreated wood may be burned. No leaves, trash, plastics, treated lumber, etc. are allowed to be burned.
- 4) The fire must be constantly attended by a responsible adult until completely extinguished.
- 5) A fire extinguisher (minimum rating of 4A:10BC) or other approved on-site fire extinguishing means (such as dirt, sand, water, etc.) must be available for immediate utilization.
- 6) The fire official may order the extinguishment of the fire if it is determined the fire is creating excessive smoke, or any other hazardous situation.

This guideline does not overrule or supersede any rules or regulations a homeowner's association (HOA), or property management company may have in place. If your property is part of a HOA or a rental property, you should consult the appropriate agreements that govern your residence.

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact the Fountain Inn Fire Department Fire Marshal's Office at 864.531.0644 x4221 or via email fifd@fountaininn.org.

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City of Fountain Inn Municipal Code excerpt(s):

Sec. 9-3. - Setting fires.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person knowingly to ignite, kindle, or set any fire that creates a substantial risk of injury to any person or damage to property of another within the city.
- (b) It shall be unlawful to burn any trash, leaves, debris, or other items within the city. This prohibition shall not be deemed to apply to the preparation of food for immediate consumption provided such preparation is done in a device and place designed for such purpose. Furthermore, fires used solely for ceremonial purposes shall be allowed provided, however, that a permit must first be obtained.
- (c) Outdoor burning in connection with land clearing and improvement may be permitted under the following conditions:
 - (1) A permit shall be obtained.
 - (2) A cash bond or a surety bond in an amount to be determined by the fire chief shall be posted with the city treasurer. Cash posted as a bond will be returned once the permitted event has been completed and all the requirements of the permit have been met without damage or expense to the city.
 - (3) Burning for land clearing shall be done only by a contractor duly licensed in the state by the department of labor, licensing and regulation. The name of the contractor and contractor's South Carolina license number shall be listed on the permit.
 - (4) A fire shall not be started before 7:00 a.m. and must be extinguished completely by 5:00 p.m. unless otherwise designated by the fire chief or his designee.
 - (5) The contractor shall comply with all terms, regulations, and conditions established by state and federal law and by the fire chief. In addition, all work shall be performed in accordance with any special conditions as determined by the fire chief and recorded on the permit.
- (d) Notwithstanding any of the provisions of this chapter, nothing contained herein shall be deemed to prohibit the owner of a private, individually owned tract of land, not in any platted residential subdivision from burning trees, limbs, shrubs or bushes downed, uprooted, or destroyed by or due to severe storm damage or natural disaster. However, such burning shall not be done except after issuance of an appropriate burning permit by the chief of the city fire department or his designees. A contractor who is engaged to burn such debris shall obtain the permit detailed hereinabove.
- (e) All burning allowed within the city limits shall in all instances conform to all rules and regulations of the state department of health and environmental control.

(Code 1971, § 15-61; Ord. No. 2009-001, § 1, 2-12-09)

Sec. 9-6. – Permit required/permit fee.

Prior to any burning as may be allowed by this chapter of the International Fire Code, a permit must be obtained. The fee for the permit shall be \$250.00.

(Ord. No. 2009-001, § 1, 2-12-09)



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Greenville County Ordinance 3201 excerpt(s):

Sec. 1. - Definition.

"Platted Residential Subdivision" shall mean a large-scale division of a tract or parcel of land into five (5) or more lots for residential purposes

Sec. 2. - Prohibition.

It shall be unlawful for any person to kindle or maintain any open burning or authorize any such fire to be kindled or maintained within a platted residential subdivision or within 200' of a platted residential subdivision...except as provided below:

- (a) Burning must be a minimum of 50' from any structure and adequate provision is made to prevent spreading within 50' of any structure.
- (b) Burning must be constantly attended by a competent person until fire is extinguished.
- (c) Appropriate water supply or other fire extinguishing equipment must be readily available for use.
- (d) Proper notification given to SC State Forestry.
- (e) Burning conducted in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.
- (f) Burning must be extinguished by 3:00 pm.

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) Regulation 61-62.2 excerpt(s):

Open burning of leaves, tree branches, or yard trimmings originating on the premises of private residences and burned on those premises.

Open burning in connection with the preparation of food for immediate consumption, campfires and fires used solely for recreational purposes, ceremonial occasions, or human warmth. Fires set for the purpose of human warmth must use only clean wood products (woody vegetation, leaves, or wood which is not coated with stain, paint, glue, or other coating material, and not treated lumber).

No more than two 30'x30' or equivalent may be burnt at one time.

The initial burning must be started only between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.; no combustible material may be added to the fire between 3:00 p.m. of one day and 9:00 a.m. the following day.

Winds during the time of the burning must be away from any area in which the ambient air may be significantly affected by smoke from the burning if that area contains a public roadway or a residential, commercial, or industrial site.

The emissions of smoke, dust, fumes, condensed vapor, or any other substance which creates a traffic hazard on public roads by impairment of visibility or intensifies an existing condition to the extent that a traffic hazard is created is prohibited.

Open burning may be conducted in certain situations if no undesirable levels are or will be created. The authority to conduct open burning under this Regulation does not exempt or excuse the person responsible for the burning from the consequences of or the damages or injuries resulting from the burning and does not exempt or excuse anyone from complying with other applicable laws and with ordinances, regulations, and orders of governmental entities having jurisdiction, even though the burning is otherwise conducted in compliance with this Regulation.



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International Fire Code (IFC) Definitions:

BONFIRE: *an outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes*

OPEN BURNING: *the burning of materials wherein products of combustion are emitted into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber. Open burning does not include road flares, smudgepots and similar devices associated with safety or occupational uses typically considered open flames, recreational fires, or use of portable outdoor fireplaces. For the purpose of this definition, a chamber shall be regarded as enclosed when, during the time combustion occurs, only apertures, ducts, stacks, flues, or chimneys necessary to provide combustion air and permit the escape of exhaust gas are open.*

RECREATIONAL FIRE: *an outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, portable outdoor fireplace, barbecue grill or barbecue pit and has a total fuel area of 3 feet (914 mm) or less in diameter and 2 feet (610 mm) or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial to include sky lanterns, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.*

International Fire Code (IFC) Regulation excerpt(s):

Open burning shall be prohibited when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous. (IFC Section 307.1.1)

A permit shall be obtained from the fire code official prior to kindling a fire... Burn permit application must be presented by and will only be issued to the owner of the land on which the fire is to be kindled. (IFC Section 307.2)

Where open burning creates or adds to a hazardous situation, or a required permit for open burning has not been obtained, the fire code official is authorized to order the extinguishment of the open burning operation (IFC 307.3)

The location for open burning or bonfires must be a minimum of 50' from any structure and provisions must be made to prevent fire from spreading to within 50' of any structure. If the pile size is 3' or less in diameter and 2' or less in height, distance may be decreased to 25' from any structure. Fires in approved containers must be a minimum of 15' from any structure. (IFC 307.4 – 307.4.2)

Open burning, bonfires, recreational fires, and use of portable outdoor fireplaces shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher complying with Section 906 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 (IFC 307.5)

South Carolina Forestry Commission

South Carolina State Law required citizens to notify the Forestry Commission before burning outdoors. This requirement only applies to unincorporated areas (outside of city/town limits). For additional information and to make notification, visit [Fire & Burning - South Carolina Forestry Commission](#). SC DHEC and SC Fire Code Regulations still apply.