

**When enjoying a fire pit,  
please keep a few  
thoughts in mind...**

**Be prepared to extinguish the fire.**

Always keep a hose, water supply, sand bucket, or fire extinguisher within reach when using your outdoor fireplace or fire pit. At the end of the evening, make sure your fire is completely out before leaving your fireplace or fire pit unattended.

**Be courteous to your neighbors.**

Check with your neighbors, they may have a medical condition that could be severely affected by the smoke from your fire. If wind conditions exist that can blow the smoke into their homes, refrain from burning or relocate the fire pit to a different area in your yard.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the information in this pamphlet, contact the Roselle Fire Prevention Bureau at: 630-671-2842.



**Completely  
extinguish and  
cover your fire pit  
after every use.**



**FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**  
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**Remember: Fire is Everyone's Fight**



# **FIRE PITS AND BONFIRES**

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS**



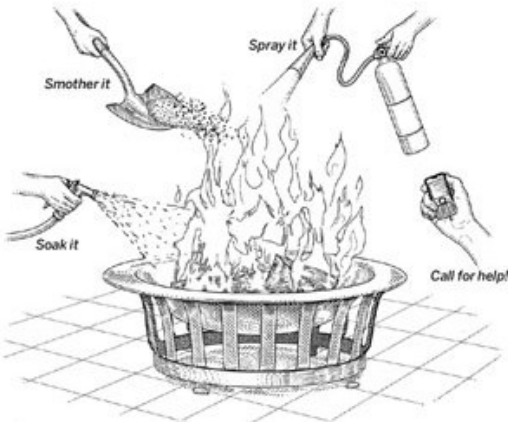
## Definitions:

**Recreational fires** are those where fire burning materials, other than rubbish, are not contained in an outdoor fireplace, barbeque grill or pit, and have a total fuel area of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet in height for pleasure, cooking, warmth, or similar purposes.

**Bonfires** are outdoor fires utilized for ceremonial purposes. The Roselle Fire Prevention Bureau must be contacted for approval prior to any bonfire. You can contact them at (630) 671-2842.

**Nuisance Fires** are those that are deemed offensive or objectionable because of smoke or odor emissions, or when conditions make such fires hazardous.

### If your fire grows out of control...



## Open Burning /Fire Pit Rules and Regulations

The Roselle Fire and Police Departments are authorized to order the extinguishment of any nuisance fires. Continued burning could result in citations being issued.

Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material. **Exception:** Fires in approved, commercially manufactured containers should be at least 15 feet from any structure.

The burning wood pile shall be limited to 3 feet in diameter and less than 2 feet in height.

Recreational fires shall not be used to burn leaves, garbage, construction debris, or other similar items.

Bonfires shall not be conducted within 50 feet of a structure or combustible material. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

Open burning fires, recreational or bonfire, shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. On-site extinguishing equipment shall always be available for immediate use.

Manufactured fireplaces are allowed provided they meet the required size limits of 3 feet in diameter and less than 2 feet in height. Home built fireplaces require a building permit.

## Outdoor Fire Pit and Fire Place Safety Tips

- **Keep safety your first consideration.** Never leave an outdoor fireplace or fire pit unattended because the wind can suddenly gust or shift direction. Worse, children or pets can unexpectedly bump into, or fall, onto the fire. Never allow children to play with the fire materials.
- **Select your firewood to minimize smoke.** Burn clean, dry wood only. Well seasoned hardwoods such as oak & hickory produce less smoke than unseasoned wood or softwood.
- **Start with a small fire.** The first time you use your outdoor fireplace or fire pit, use minimal fuel. Learn how the fireplace or fire pit draws air, how it responds to changes in wind direction, and how long it burns before you need to add more wood.
- **Use the protective covering.** If your outdoor fireplace or fire pit comes with a protective cover, use it to shield your outdoor fireplace or fire pit from the elements.
- **Use the screen.** Most outdoor fireplaces and fire pits have mesh screens. After the initial flames have died down, place the screen in front of or over the fire. This will help control sparks and burning debris.

The requirements for outdoor fires can be found in the 2006 edition of the International Fire Code, section 307