

City of Del Mar POLICY for Recreational Fires

This policy applies to recreational fires at dwellings, apartments, condos, etc. Policy applies in Del Mar. This **policy does not apply to uses that require a Fire Prevention bureau permit: e.g. Bonfires, pit cooking fires, social gatherings or other commercial uses.**

Wash tubs, Chiminea- (without spark arrestor & proper screened cover in front or on top of appliance), in-Ground pits edged with rocks/bricks, or other questionable homemade appliances or containers ARE NOT allowed.

1. Recreational **WOOD** Fires can only be held under the following conditions:
 - Must be in approved fire containers or appliance with the following:
 - Solid metal bottom,
 - Screened sides
 - Solid metal lid, OR, an outdoor fireplace with screened front and spark arrestor, or
 - Other safe, purpose built fire appliance; constructed of stucco, metal, brick or noncombustible sides Mandatory screened top to contain embers and sparks
 - Fire pits shall have sides at least 12-inches high that completely encircle the fire container.
 - A. Fires burning **Wood** shall be minimum **15 feet** from structure or any combustible material
 - B. Garden Hose and/or Shovel with sand /dirt etc. shall be present for extinguishment.
 - C. Fires should have a responsible adult (age 18) on premises.
 - D. To be considered a cooking fire, the container shall have a purpose built metal grill over top of container that fits snugly and prevents escape of embers.
2. Recreational Fires in Containers using **NATURAL GAS or PROPANE** only; may be in approved purpose built fire appliances or pits which include;
 - A container or appliance with metal, brick, concrete or dirt bottom
 - The side material constructed is made of stucco, brick or other non-combustible material.
 - The side of fire container shall encircle the fire pit and be at least 12 inches in height.

No screened or other type of lid required on fires that burn **ONLY Natural Gas or Propane** and use fake log or rocks, etc.

****If person is using natural gas fire or propane pit and is also burning wood, then top & sides must be screened to prevent escape of embers.**

- A. Fires burning NATURAL GAS only shall be located minimum **15 feet** from structures or combustible materials.
 - B. Key to shut-off gas shall be available. Adult over age 18 should be present.
 - C. If cooking; the container shall have a grill over top that fits snugly & prevents escape of embers.
3. Cooking Fires; In general, cooking fires using coal, natural gas or LPG, should not be conducted within **10 feet** of combustibles or under eaves. Distance can be reduced if using a stucco or brick, purpose built BBQ, must be at least 3 feet from combustible construction.

GENERAL NOTES:

- A. A fire in illegally constructed containers or pits; and/or placing food on grill upon arrival of FD, does not negate requirements shown above for Recreational Fires.
- B. Vegetation, low-hanging trees or other combustibles should be at least **25 feet** away.
- C. Burning **Pallets** is permissible, *provided they are cut-up* in quarters and fit in container or pit.
- D. Height of fire / flame coming from container should be reasonable; as determined by Fire Dept.
- E. If you have on-going issue with illegal fire container, notify fire prevention bureau ASAP. .

F. Fires or cooking on balconies, walkways & patios of condos, apartments, etc. are not allowed.

If fire dept. deems any recreational fire unsafe, or wind/weather conditions dictate hazardous condition, you have legal authority to require extinguishment of any recreational fire.