



Unified Fire Authority  
Fire Prevention  
Bureau

**Topic:** Outdoor Recreational Fires,  
Agriculture Fires

**Date:** April, 2009

Code Enforcement Series "Outdoor Fire"  
09- IFC

## Permissible Outdoor Fires

### 1. Outdoor Fire Pits (not on apartment decks)

Recreational fires where firewood (not trash) is used as a fuel are allowed. The fire must be in an approved pit no larger than three (3) feet across with a maximum flame height of two (2) feet. Citizens are to have a fire extinguisher, hose or some sort of method to extinguish the fire if needed. The fire code requires that a fire pit be 25 feet away from combustibles. *See "09", IFC 307.4.2*



**Regardless, during seasonal "No Outdoor Burn Conditions" outside open flame is not allowed. Fires that become a nuisance to others must be extinguished.**

### 2. Barbeque Grills –Portable Outdoor Fireplaces

Portable outdoor fireplaces shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material. *See "09", IFC 307.4.3*

**Open-flame cooking devices.** Charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction.

**Exceptions:**

1. One- and two-family dwellings.
2. Where buildings, balconies and decks are protected by an automatic sprinkler system.
3. LP-gas cooking devices having LP-gas container with a water capacity not greater than 2 ½ pounds [nominal 1 lb. LP-gas capacity]. *See "09", IFC 308.1.4*

**So, realistically this code section states the following:**

The safe use of all types of barbeque grills is allowed in one or two family dwellings. However, barbeques can't be used on balconies or decks of multi-family dwellings unless the area (deck or balcony) is non-combustible or protected by a fire sprinkler system.

As is too often the case in the fire code, there is an exception. Small LP gas type barbeques with the LP cylinder no larger than 1 lb, are permitted on decks and balconies without the fire sprinkler requirement.



If a fire sprinkler system protects the deck and the barbeque, larger size gas or charcoal grills can be used.

As a policy the UFA does not go around to apartment buildings inspecting who has or does not have a barbeque on their deck. We do however receive many inquires as to what is allowed by fire code.

### 3. Agriculture Fires

The Unified Fire Authority does not issue burn permits, and has not for years. Outdoor fires are only allowed where the person responsible for the fire has been issued a Farm Bureau, "Burn Notification Number". For information pertaining to Farm Bureau Numbers contact the Farm Bureau at 801-233-3020.

Agricultural fires include a "Burn Notification Number" and are limited to:

- Fence Lines on cultivated lands, canals, or irrigation ditches.
- Horticulture prunings, stubble, weed growth along ditches and canals in preparation for irrigation.
- Controlled heating for orchards and other crops to prevent freezing.

When a citizen in our jurisdiction calls to request agriculture outdoor burning, and the fire meets the conditions stated above, record the persons name, address, address of burn, phone number, date and time of outdoor burn. Notify the nearest fire station by phone (if call is received at the EOC) and notify VECC at 801-840-4000. Fires that are offensive or hazardous are prohibited and regardless of any "Burn Notification Number" can be extinguished. *See "09" IFC 307.1.1, 307.3*

Provide the information above to the Fire Prevention Bureau Secretary at 801-743-7230.