Recreational Fire Policy for the Cities of Del Mar, Encinitas, and Solana Beach

This policy applies to Recreational Fires at dwellings, condos, apartments, etc. 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.

Recreational Fires in containers using WOOD shall be in approved fire appliances such as: container or appliance with solid metal bottom, screened sides and solid metal lid, OR, an outdoor fireplace with screened front and a spark arrester, or other safe, purpose built fire appliance; constructed of stucco, metal, brick or non-combustible sides, with a screened top.

A. Fires burning WOOD shall be minimum 15 feet from structure or any combustible material.
B. Fire pits shall have sides at least 12 inches in height that completely encircle the fire.
C. Fires shall have a responsible adult on premise for the duration of the fire.
D. An extinguishment tool must be present i.e. garden hose, fire extinguisher shovel and dirt.

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, and concrete or dirt bottom, with side material constructed of stucco, brick or other non-combustible material. 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 a natural gas fire or propane pit and is also burning wood, then top & sides must be screened to prevent escape of embers.

A. All outdoor fireplaces must be listed and installed per the manufacturers specifications and built to city standards.
B. All portable fireplaces shall not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material. Except portable devices used at one and two-family dwellings.
C. A shutoff key or valve shall be readily available for use.

Cooking Fires using COAL, NATURAL GAS or PROPANE, should not be conducted within 10 feet of combustibles or under eaves. Distance can be reduced to a minimum of 3 feet from combustible construction if using a stucco or brick purpose-built BBQ.

A. Cooking on balconies and patios of any multi-family housing is NOT permitted unless protected with a fire sprinkler system or the LP container is limited to a gas capacity of 1-pound or less.

GENERAL NOTES:
1. A fire in illegally constructed containers or pits and/or placing food on grill upon arrival of FD, does not negate requirements indicated above.
2. Vegetation, low-hanging trees, or other combustibles should be at least 25 feet away.
3. Burning Pallets is permissible, provided they are cut-up in quarters and fit within the container or pit.
4. Height of fire / flame coming from container should be reasonable as determined by fire department personnel.
5. Fire extinguisher, garden hose and/or shovel with sand/dirt shall be present for extinguishment.
6. Fires shall have a responsible adult on premise for the duration of the fire.
7. All fires shall be fully extinguished prior to leaving the site.
8. 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 permitted.

If the fire department deems any recreational fire unsafe, or wind/weather conditions dictate a hazardous condition, the fire department has legal authority to require extinguishment of any recreational fire. CFC Section 307.1.1 and Section 307.3.

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