



Manhattan Fire Department

Standard Operation Guidelines

Title: Outdoor Fire Policy

Guideline No. : 404.04

Effective Date: 6-18-2018

Revision Date: 2-24-20

USE POLICY FOR PORTABLE OUTDOOR FIREPLACES, OUTDOOR FIREPLACES AND RECREATIONAL FIRES IN THE CITY OF MANHATTAN

DEFINITIONS (as written in 2018 International Fire Code):

- I. **PORTABLE OUTDOOR FIREPLACE:** A portable, outdoor, solid-fuel-burning fireplace that may be constructed of steel, concrete, clay or other noncombustible material. A portable outdoor fireplace may be open in design, or may be equipped with a small hearth opening and a short chimney or chimney opening in the top. 2018 IFC, 202.
- II. **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, barbeque grill or barbeque pit and has a total fuel area of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes. 2018 IFC, 202.

POLICY

The Manhattan Fire Department has developed the following policy using the International Fire Code as adopted by the City of Manhattan for the basis of the policy.

- I. Portable outdoor fireplaces shall not be operated within 15 feet of a structure, property line or combustible materials.
- II. Portable outdoor fireplaces shall not be used on a combustible deck.
- III. Recreational fires must be enclosed by some noncombustible fire ring at least 1 foot in height above the ground and shall not be constructed within 25 feet of a structure, property line or combustible materials.
- IV. Outdoor fireplaces, other than portable, must be constructed of noncombustible materials and shall not be constructed within 15 feet of a structure, property line or combustible materials unless constructed under the provisions of the International Residential Code.
- V. Outdoor fires that are offensive or objectionable because of smoke emissions or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fire hazardous shall be prohibited.

- VI. Combustible materials which could cause a fire to spread shall be eliminated or at least mowed short in the immediate area prior to ignition.
- VII. Ashes shall be discarded in a noncombustible container and kept outside of any structure.
- VIII. Only charcoal or clean, dry and seasoned firewood can be used for fuel. Firewood can be a maximum of 2 feet long.
- IX. Do not use flammable and combustible fluids such as gasoline, alcohol, diesel fuel, kerosene or charcoal fluid to light and relight fires.
- X. Trash, garbage, leaves, asphalt, petroleum products, paints, rubber products, plastics, paper, cardboard, treated wood, construction debris, metal or any substance that normally releases toxic emissions, dense smoke, or obnoxious odors when burned shall not be used as fuel.
- XI. While a fire is burning or smoldering it must be attended at all times.
- XII. Buckets, shovels, garden hose or a fire extinguisher with a 4A or greater rating shall be readily available for use while a fire is burning or smoldering.
- XIII. Burn bans by the State of Kansas, Riley or Pottawatomie counties, or the City of Manhattan shall be strictly enforced.

If you have any questions concerning this policy, contact the Risk Reduction division of the Manhattan Fire Department at (785) 587-4506.