

East Pierce Fire & Rescue

Recreational Fire Guidelines

Recreational fires are allowed in East Pierce Fire & Rescue in a fire pit only after the following regulations have been followed. Due to the “Washington State Clean Air Act”, revised in 1991, it is mandatory that recreational fires meet these requirements.

1. Recreational fires are limited to burning of dry, seasoned wood or charcoal briquettes, with a total fuel area of three (3) feet or less in diameter and two (2) feet in height, for the purpose of cooking, pleasure or religious ceremonies.
2. No garbage, dead animals, asphalt, petroleum products, paints, rubber products, tires, plastic, paper products, plywood, finished lumber, or particleboard may be burned.
3. Burning of residential yard waste in a recreational pit is prohibited, including grass clippings, leaves, needles, and brush.
4. Recreational fires shall be allowed year round EXCEPT during any stage of an air pollution episode or impaired air quality, as directed by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency.

The fire department is required to report infractions of the above regulations to Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. Non-compliance with these regulations can result in a civil penalty of \$10,000 or more per day.

Location:

- Recreational fires must be 25 feet away from any structure.
- Recreational fire pits shall be located not less than ten (10) feet from adjoining property lines, fences, or docks.

Construction:

- Recreational fire pits shall be constructed of concrete, stone, or approved non-combustible material.
- The bottom of the pit may be of sand, or mineral earth.
- The recreational fire pit shall not exceed three (3) feet in diameter. The depth of the pit shall be a minimum of four (4) inches and capable of containing all burned material.

Maintenance:

- Recreational fire pits shall be maintained in good condition at all times.
- Fire extinguishing equipment such as buckets, shovels, or garden hoses shall be readily available for use at recreational fires.

Attendance:

- Recreational fire pits shall be constantly attended by a person knowledgeable in the use of fire extinguishing equipment required by this section. An attendant shall supervise a recreational fire until such fire has been completely extinguished.

Discontinuance:

- The fire department may require a recreational fire to be extinguished if atmospheric or local circumstances make such fires hazardous or if it is required by Puget Sound Clean Air Agency.