

Liabilities

When you maintain a recreational fire, you are responsible for the fire and any damage that may be caused, as specified by the California Health and Safety Code:

- **13007. Liability for Damage.** Any person, who personally or allows another person to willfully, negligently, or in violation of law, set fire to, allows fire to be set to, or allows a fire kindled or attended by him or her to escape to the property of another, whether privately or publicly owned, is liable to the property owner for any damages caused by the fire.
- **13008. Due Diligence Required.** Any person who allows a fire burning upon his or her property to escape to the property of another, whether privately or publicly owned, without exercising due diligence to control such fire, is liable to the owner of such property for the damages to the property caused by the fire.
- **13009. Expense of fighting fires, liability for.** Any person who negligently, or in violation of the law, sets a fire, allows a fire to be set, allows a fire kindled or attended by him or her to escape onto any public or private property will be financially responsible for firefighting costs.

California Public Resources Code states:

- **4434. Campfire Escape.** The escape of any campfire from the control of any person who is maintaining the campfire is prima facie evidence that such person was negligent in maintaining the campfire.

Keep Smoke to a Minimum

- Burn dry wood.
- Avoid a smoldering fire by adding new wood to keep the fire burning.
- Maintain good air circulation for the fire.
- Avoid overloading the fire with large heavy pieces of wood.
- Don't burn trash, rubbish, garbage, or yard waste.

Don't be a Nuisance

The Ventura County Air Pollution Control District has rules to protect the air quality in Ventura County. Any outdoor fire where the smoke creates a nuisance for others is a violation of the air quality standards.

- Be considerate.
- Keep smoke to a minimum.
- Don't burn trash, rubbish, garbage, or yard waste.
- Don't allow your fire to smolder.
- Completely extinguish your fire.



Ventura County Fire Department

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FP Guideline 404

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Ventura County Fire Department



RECREATIONAL FIRE SAFETY

VENTURA COUNTY RESIDENTS MAY
ENJOY A RECREATIONAL FIRE
BUT MUST...

- ⇒ **Obtain Permission** from the property owner.
- ⇒ **Limit the Size** of the fire.
- ⇒ **Clear Away** flammable vegetation.
- ⇒ **Maintain Separation** from structures and combustibles.
- ⇒ **Have a responsible person Attend to the Fire Constantly.**
- ⇒ **Provide Fire Extinguishing Equipment** for immediate utilization.
- ⇒ **Completely Extinguish** the fire.
- ⇒ **Be aware that burning trash, rubbish, garbage, or yard waste is Prohibited by Law.**



Recreational Fires in Wildland Fire Areas

Recreational Fires in Wildland Fire Areas require special precautions. A Wildland Fire Area is land which is covered by grass, grain, brush, or forest. If necessary, contact the local fire station for determination of Wildland Fire Areas.

In addition to general requirements, the following also apply:

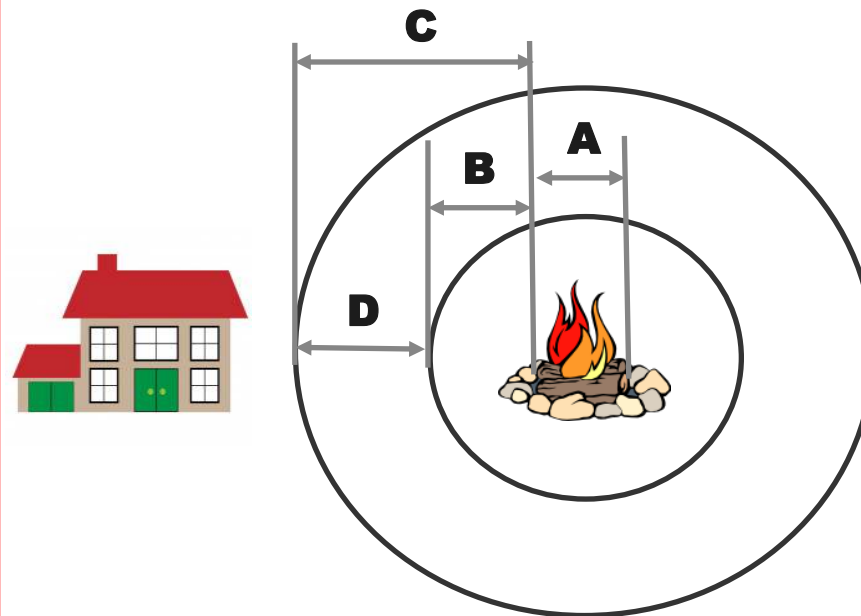
- A Permit is required, obtainable at a local fire station or by going online for a “California Campfire Permit” at PreventWildfireCA.org/permits
- The responsible person must be at least 17 years of age and must be present.
- Fires are not allowed when wind speed exceeds 15 mph.

How to Completely Extinguish a Fire

1. Fill a bucket with water and pour it on the fire (or use a garden hose), while completely stirring and wetting all ashes. Turn wood and coals over and wet all sides.
2. Move some dirt into the fire area and mix thoroughly.
3. Feel with your hand all around the fire area to be sure nothing is still smoldering.

REMEMBER: YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE for the fire and liable for any damage and suppression costs caused by your fire.

Fire Safety Requirements



A – 3 feet maximum diameter (2 feet in Wildland Fire Areas).

B – 10 feet clear (bare ground) of any combustible material (5 feet in Wildland Fire Areas).

C – 25 feet clear of any structure or combustible material:

- 15 feet allowed when fire is in an approved container with sides and bottom constructed of steel, concrete, clay, or other non-combustible material.
- At one- and two-family dwellings, no specific clearance requirement for fires in approved non-combustible containers.

Provide a Safe Clearance Based on Size of Fire.

D – Limit combustibles, such as vegetation and mowed grass, to prevent a fire from spreading.

What is a Recreational Fire?

A recreational fire is an outdoor fire that has a total fuel area of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height. The fire is for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth, or similar purpose. In Wildland Fire Areas, the maximum fuel area is 2 feet or less in diameter.