

## **Guidelines for Bonfires, Open Burning, Recreational Fires, Consumer Fireworks, Burn Restrictions and Burn Bans**

**Bonfires** – a bonfire is an outdoor fire used for ceremonial purposes as outlined in the 2003 International Fire Code Section 302.1. All bonfires **require a permit** from the Manitou Springs Fire Department. They must not have a total fuel area greater than 8 feet in diameter and must be less than 6 feet in height (unless authorized by the fire department). Permitted bonfires must be at least 50 feet away from a structure or combustible materials and must **not** at any point move any closer to the structure than the stated 50 foot distance.

**Open Burning** – Examples of fires that are classified as open burning are ditch burning, fires used for silviculture (forestry purposes), range or wildlife management, the prevention and or control of disease or pests. Only city, county and state agencies with an approved Prescribed Burn Plan and Hazardous Activity Permit are allowed to pursue this type of activity.

**Recreational Fires** – a recreational fire is an outdoor fire where materials other than rubbish are being burned and it is not contained in a permanent fixture (incinerator, outdoor fireplace, BBQ grill or pit). The 2003 International Fire Code 302.1 defines these fires as being intended for cooking, warmth, religious, ceremonial or other special purposes. This type of fire must be at least 25 feet away from a structure or combustible materials and must **not** at any point move any closer to the structure than the stated 25 foot distance (the restricted distance shall include property lines) The fire activity will have a means of extinguishment readily available (garden hose)

**Attendance.** Open burning, bonfires or recreational fires shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher complying with Section 906 with a minimum 4-A rating or other approved on-site fire-extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck, shall be available for immediate utilization.

**Exceptions:** 1. The distance from a structure or a property line can be reduced to 10 feet if it is within a commercial appliance (with a spark arrester)

**Consumer Fireworks** – all types of fireworks with a fuse and or requiring a flame for ignition are illegal. Only novelty items (snappers and poppers) are allowed. A fire started by fireworks that threatens or damages property is a crime of Arson. Possession, use and or the sale of fireworks is subject to a fine up to and including \$500 and or up to 90 days in jail. Professional public and private firework displays are regulated, permitted and approved on a case-by-case basis by the Office of the Fire Marshal.

**Enacting Burn Restrictions and Burn Bans** The Fire Prevention Officer is the official that can enact a Burn Restriction or Burn Ban. When implemented, Burn Restrictions and Burn Bans apply to the entire city. Criteria used to determine when these conditions are initiated include; weather, fuel moisture, cooperators status, local and regional fire activity and national preparedness levels (which influences suppression aircraft availability). These elements are closely monitored by the Wildland Risk Manager and Fire Marshal and when predetermined criteria are met the appropriate condition is implemented. Immediate public notifications are made to the media through news releases.

The chart below outlines what is **allowed** during Burn Restrictions and Burn Bans:

	<b>Allowed during Burn Restrictions</b>	<b>Allowed during a Burn Ban</b>
Blasting, Welding and Torches	Yes	No
Bonfires	No	No
Consumer Fireworks	No	No
Model Rockets	No	No
Outdoor Burning Only approved	Only approved Agencies	Only approved Agencies
Outdoor Cooking	Yes	Only on Private Property *See Below
Recreational	No	No

\*During a Burn Ban outdoor cooking on city property (parks, open space, etc.) is **not** allowed. Cooking with gas on private property with an approved manufactured appliance is allowed. Citizens are required to use responsible behavior and take special safety precautions while cooking outdoors during a Burn Ban.

### **Commonly Asked Questions**

1. Can city residents burn leaves or trash outdoors? No, this is an illegal activity. Violations should be reported to the Manitou Springs Fire Department (719-685-1444).
2. Is burning trash in a fireplace allowed in the city? No, this is an air quality issue and violations should be reported to Manitou Springs Fire Department (719-685-1444).