Fire Pits, Chimineas and Recreational Fires

The following are guidelines for using Fire pits (recreational fires) within the Crested Butte Fire Protection District (CBFPD). Please note that both Mt Crested Butte and Crested Butte (Towns) have adopted the 2009 International Fire Code and the unincorporated portions of Gunnison County (County) within the boundaries of the CBFPD have adopted the 2003 International Fire Code (IFC). Other agencies such as the Towns, County and/or Home Owner Associations, may have additional rules or requirements that are not stated herein.

Definitions

(2003 & 2009 IFC 302.1)
BONFIRE. An outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes.

OPEN BURNING. The burning of materials wherein products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber. Open burning does not include...recreational fires or use of portable outdoor fireplaces.

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.

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.
Requirements

(IFC 307.1.1) Prohibited Open Burning. Open burning that is offensive or objectionable because of smoke emissions or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited.

(IFC 307.2.1) Authorization. Where required by state or local laws or regulations, open burning shall only be permitted with prior approval from state or local air and water quality management authority, provided that all conditions specified in the authorization are followed. Please call Gunnison Dispatch at 641-8201 to determine if a “Red Flag” condition or burn ban is in effect and/or call the Crested Butte or Mt Crested Butte Town Hall for any Town Burning Permit.

(IFC 307.3) Extinguishment Authority. The fire code official is authorized to order extinguishment by the person responsible or the fire department of open burning that creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation.

(IFC 307.4) Location. The location for open burning shall not be less than 50 feet from any structure, and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 50 feet of any structure.

   Exceptions:
   1. Fire in approved containers that are not less than 15 feet from a structure.
   2. The minimum required distance from a structure shall be 25 feet where the pile size is 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height.

(IFC 307.4.1) Bonfires. A bonfire shall not be conducted within 50 feet of a structure or combustible material... Conditions which could cause a fire to spread to within 50 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

(IFC 307.5) Attendance. Open burning, bonfires, recreational fires and use of portable outdoor fireplaces 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.
(IFC 307.4.2) **Recreational fires (Fire Pit).** Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

(PIF 307.4.3) **Portable outdoor fireplaces (Chimineas, above ground fire pits, fireplaces).** Portable outdoor fireplaces shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions and shall not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material.

**Approved Examples**

- Outdoor Fireplace
- Portable Fire Pit
- Recreational Fire
- Fire Pit
- Chiminea