



**CHARLOTTE FIRE DEPARTMENT – FIRE PREVENTION  
BUREAU**

**(704) 336-2101**

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## Fire Pits/Recreational Fires/Open Burning

The Charlotte Fire Department wants to remind everyone to be safe during the holiday season

As the cooler weather approaches, it is important to be careful when enjoying recreational fires. Annually, the Charlotte Fire Department responds to numerous calls related to outdoor burning and fire pits.

The North Carolina State Fire Code allows for recreational fires, provided the following guidelines are adhered to:

- The location of the fire pit and/or recreational fire shall be at least 25 feet away from all structures.
- The fire must be constantly attended until it has been extinguished.
- A method for extinguishment shall be available for immediate use.
- The fuel size cannot exceed 2 feet by 3 feet.
- If the Fire Department requires you to extinguish the fire, you must comply.

Recreational fires can be used for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes, but are prohibited from being used to burn household trash, garbage, yard debris (leaves, brush, stumps, etc.), or construction materials.

*These guidelines do not apply to fires in which the fuel being burned is completely contained in an outdoor fireplace, barbeque grill, or barbeque pit.*