

OUTSIDE FIRES



When the weather gets nice in Rochester, many people like to enjoy outside fires, from bonfires and fire pits to cooking over an open flame. Recreational fires should be able to be enjoyed outdoors as long as there is enough space and safety precautions are taken.

The Rochester Fire Department reminds neighbors to follow these simple rules for outside fires:

- Never leave any fire unattended
- Closely supervise children around grills and outdoor fires
- Make sure you have something nearby to extinguish the fire (sand, dirt, garden hose, or fire extinguisher)
- Fires in approved containers (pits, chimneys, outdoor fireplaces, etc.) must be a minimum of 15 feet from any structure (including houses, fences, garages, etc.)
- Outside recreational fires, for which the pile size must be no more than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height, must be a minimum of 25 feet from any structure or any combustible material (anything that can burn)
- Avoid outside fires on dry, windy days to prevent unintended fire spread. Never use gasoline to make a recreational fire.
- Charcoal grills or other open-flame cooking devices may not be operated on balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction (structural materials that can burn)
- If the fire is causing excessive smoke or air quality issues that impact your neighbors, you may be asked to extinguish the fire under the Rochester City Code, Section 120-164

The U.S. Fire Administration estimates that outdoor fires cause 850 civilian injuries and 30 civilian deaths each year. Please help keep your family and neighborhood safe by following these guidelines.