

Fire Statistics

Every 46 seconds an outdoor fire occurs according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Fire departments responded to 1,389,500 fires in the United States. Residents must take extra precautions when utilizing outdoor fires with open flames like camp fires, chimneas, and portable fire pits. Take the necessary steps to prevent an outdoor fire from occurring and protect you and your loved ones.



Fire Marshal's Office

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Loudoun County Fire
Marshal's Office



Portable Fire Pit
and Chimnea
Safety

Portable Fire Pits and Chimneas

- Keep the fire pit chimnea at least 15 feet away from a building or any flammable materials. This includes newspaper, gasoline, diesel fuel, kerosene, and lighter fluid or vehicles while in use.
- Place the pit on a stone, brick, or concrete surface. If you must place it on your deck or in the grass consider purchasing a fire resistant pad to place underneath it.
- Use a screen to eliminate sparks from catching other objects on fire.



- Do not overload fire pit as there is a risk of the wood falling out and potentially spreading the fire.
- Do not burn trash, leaves, paper, cardboard, or plywood. Avoid using soft wood such as pine or cedar that likely pop and throw sparks. Use of seasoned hardwood is suggested.
- Soak ashes or wait until they are completely cooled before disposing of them in the proper receptacles. Hot embers should be place in a metal container away from any structure.
- Teach kids how to be responsible when around fires, but do not allow them to use it when alone.
- Keep a fire extinguisher readily available.
- Use gloves when handling hot objects.

- Never leave the fire unattended.
- Do not wear loose fitting clothing when operating the fire pit.
- Before you light the fire, evaluate how windy it is (is it safe) and the wind direction (e.g. where your smoke will be blowing).
- Exercise the same precautions you would with an open fire.



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