



# Campbell County Fire Department

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## Rules for Burning in the City of Gillette

This guide explains the rules for outdoor fires within the City of Gillette. These rules come from the International Fire Code (IFC) and City of Gillette ordinances.

The purpose of these rules is to help keep people, homes, businesses, and property safe.

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### Recreational Fires and Outdoor Fireplaces

Recreational fires and portable outdoor fireplaces are allowed if ALL of the following rules are followed:

- The fire must be 3 feet or less in diameter.
- The fire must be no more than 2 feet high.
- The fire must be at least 15 feet away from buildings, fences, decks, or other combustible materials.
- The fire must be watched at all times by a responsible adult.
- The person watching the fire cannot be impaired by alcohol or drugs.
- A garden hose, fire extinguisher, or other extinguishing equipment must be nearby and ready to use.
- Portable outdoor fireplaces must:
  - have a spark arrestor if they have a chimney, and
  - have a screen covering the opening.

Only clean, natural wood should be burned.

Reference:

- IFC Section 202 Definitions
- IFC Section 307.5 Attendance
- IFC Section 307.6 Maintenance

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"To provide Excellence in all Interactions through Professionalism"

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## **Burning Garbage or Yard Waste**

Burning garbage, leaves, grass clippings, branches, yard waste, or rubbish is **NOT** allowed within the City of Gillette.

This type of burning is considered a nuisance and is prohibited.

Reference:

- IFC Section 307.1 General
  - City nuisance regulations
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## **Bonfires**

Bonfires for ceremonies, school events, or celebrations may be allowed only with Fire Department approval.

Bonfire rules:

- Bonfires must be at least 50 feet away from structures or combustible materials unless contained in an approved barbecue pit.
- Conditions that could allow the fire to spread must be removed before lighting the fire.
- A written permit from the Fire Marshal is required for bonfires that do not meet the definition of a recreational fire.

Reference:

- IFC Section 307.4.1 Bonfires
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## **Fire Restrictions**

Outdoor fires may NOT be allowed during fire restrictions issued by the Campbell County Commissioners/Campbell County Fire Department.

Examples include:

- Stage 1 Fire Restrictions
- Stage 2 Fire Restrictions
- Red Flag Warning conditions
- Other hazardous weather conditions

If fire restrictions are in place, open burning and recreational fires may be prohibited.

Reference:

- IFC Section 307.1.1 Prohibited Open Burning
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## **Fire Safety Requirements**

All outdoor fires must be safely maintained.

A responsible adult must:

- stay with the fire at all times,
- watch for changing wind conditions,
- and completely extinguish the fire before leaving.

Approved extinguishing equipment must be immediately available, including:

- portable fire extinguisher,
- garden hose,
- water barrel,
- or water truck.

Reference:

- IFC Section 307.5 Attendance
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## **Extinguishment Authority**

The Fire Department may require a fire to be extinguished if:

- the fire becomes unsafe,
- wind or weather conditions become dangerous,
- smoke causes problems for neighbors,
- the fire creates a hazard,
- or the required permit was not obtained.

Reference:

- IFC Section 307.3 Extinguishment Authority
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## **Neighbor Complaints**

Please be respectful of your neighbors.

If smoke, odor, ash, or unsafe conditions create complaints, the fire may be required to be extinguished.

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## **Liability**

If a fire escapes and damages another person's property, the person responsible for the fire may be held financially responsible.

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## **Definitions (IFC Section 202)**

### **Bonfire**

An outdoor fire used for ceremonial purposes.

### **Open Burning**

Burning materials outdoors where smoke goes directly into the air without passing through a chimney or enclosed container.

### **Portable Outdoor Fireplace**

A portable outdoor fireplace made from noncombustible materials such as steel, concrete, or clay.

### **Recreational Fire**

An outdoor fire used for pleasure, warmth, cooking, religious, or ceremonial purposes that:

- burns material other than rubbish,
- is not inside a burn barrel or incinerator,
- and is 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height.

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## **Important Reminder**

Even when fires are allowed:

- wind conditions can change quickly,
- fires can spread rapidly,
- and unsafe fires may be ordered extinguished at any time.

If you are unsure whether burning is allowed, contact the City of Gillette Public Safety Communications Center or the Campbell County Fire Department before burning.

