

BURN RESTRICTION/BURN BAN GUIDELINES



Burn Restriction and Burn Ban Guidelines

Both a Burn Restriction and Burn Ban are enacted by the Office of the Fire Marshal. When implemented, a **Burn Restriction regulates or limits** the use of fire, and a **Burn Ban regulates or prohibits** the use of fire. Criteria used to determine implementation includes: weather, fuel moisture, cooperators status, local and regional fire activity and national preparedness levels (resource availability). These elements are closely monitored by the Office of the Fire Marshal. The public will be notified through media resources regarding the implementation of any burn regulations. Refer to the chart below for specific information by activity and location.

For more information call 385-5978.

| <u>Type of Activity</u> | <u>Burn Restriction</u> | <u>Burn Ban</u> | <u>Entire City</u> | <u>Applies Only in the WUI**</u> |
|---|---|--|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Blasting | By Permit Only | By Permit Only | X | |
| Bonfires | No | No | X | |
| Consumer Fireworks | Illegal at all Times | Illegal at all Times | X | |
| Professional Firework Displays | By Permit Only | By Permit Only | X | |
| Model Rockets | By Permit Only | No | X | |
| Open Burning and Prescribed Burns (see definition on reverse side) | Only Approved Agencies | Only Approved Agencies | X | |
| Leaf and Trash Burning | Illegal at all Times | Illegal at all Times | X | |
| Open Flame Cooking and Heating Devices (see definition on reverse side) | Allowed on Private Property and by Permit Only in Park Areas | Private Property Only *See Below | X | |
| Outdoor use of Smoking Materials | Must be Disposed in Suitable Non-Combustible Container | Must be Disposed in Suitable Non-Combustible Container | X | |
| Recreational Fires (see definition on reverse side) | Only in Approved Permanent Fire Pits | No | X | |
| Industrial Torches and Welding | By Permit Only | By Permit Only | | X |

*During a Burn Ban outdoor cooking on city property (parks, open space, etc.) is **NOT** allowed. Cooking with gas or charcoal on private property, in an approved manufactured appliance, is permissible during a burn ban.

**The WUI is the city's defined wildland-urban interface. Visit csfd.springsgov.com for additional information.

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Permits are available at Fire Department Headquarters. Please note that the Office of the Fire Marshal reserves the right to revoke all permits as conditions warrant.

Bonfire

A bonfire is an outdoor fire used for ceremonial purposes as defined by the 2003 International Fire Code, Section 302.1. All bonfires **require a permit** from the Office of the Fire Marshal. The total fuel area must not be greater than 8 feet in diameter and 6 feet in height. Permitted bonfires must be at least 50 feet away from a structure, or combustible material at all times.

Fireworks

All fireworks with a fuse and/or requiring a flame for ignition **are illegal**. Only novelty items (snappers and poppers) are allowed. Under Colorado state law, a fire started by fireworks that threatens or damages property is a crime of Arson. Possession, use and/or the sale of fireworks violates City of Colorado Springs ordinance 9.7.302 and is subject to a fine up to, and including \$500, and/or up to 90 days in jail. Professional public and private firework displays are regulated, permitted and approved, on an individual basis by the Office of the Fire Marshal.

Open Burning/Prescribed Burn

Open burning is NOT allowed within the City of Colorado Springs. Examples of fires that are classified as open burning are; ditch burning, leaf and trash burning, fires used for silviculture (forestry purposes), range or wildlife management, and in the prevention or control of disease or pests. Only land agencies or property owners with an approved Prescribed Burn Plan and Hazardous Activity Permit issued from the Office of the Fire Marshal are allowed to pursue any type of the listed Open Burning/Prescribed Burn activities.

Recreational Fires/Open Flame Cooking and Heating Devices

Recreational fires are allowed within the City of Colorado Springs in accordance with the guidelines outlined below and only when a burn restriction or burn ban is not enacted. A recreational fire is an outdoor fire where materials other than rubbish are being burned, and are **NOT** contained in a manufactured appliance (incinerator, outdoor fireplace, BBQ grill). The 2003 International Fire Code 302.1 defines these fires as being intended for cooking, warmth, religious, ceremonial or other special purposes. They must not have a total fuel area greater than 3 feet in diameter and must be less than 2 feet in height. A recreational fire/campfire must be at least 25 feet away from a structure or combustible materials at all times. Outdoor fires in a permanent fixture (such as BBQs, gas-fueled fire pits, outdoor fireplaces) must be at least 10 feet away from a structure and/or combustible materials at all times, and must be constantly attended with an approved fire extinguishing method on-hand.

Citizens are required to use responsible behavior and safety precautions while cooking outdoors on private property during a Burn Ban.

Penalties

Person(s) failing to comply with the terms of a Burn Restriction or Burn Ban shall be punished in accord with the general penalty of the Code of the City of Colorado Springs as amended 1.1.201. Under Colorado state law a careless fire that threatens or damages property is fourth degree arson and shall be prosecuted as such.