

Definitions

Required Permit: A permit shall be obtained from the Fire Department in accordance with Section 105.6 prior to kindling a fire for recognized cultural or range or wildlife management practices, prevention or control of disease or pests, or a bonfire. Application for such approval shall only be presented by and permits issued to the owner of the land upon which the fire is to be kindled.

Open Burning: The burning of materials where in products of combustion are emitted directly into ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney or an enclosed chamber.

Bon Fire: An outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes that is larger than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height.

Portable Outdoor Fireplace: A portable, outdoor, solid-fuel-burning fireplace that may be constructed of steel, concrete, clay or other noncombustible material. A portable outdoor fireplace may be open in design, or may be equipped with a small hearth opening and a short chimney or chimney opening in the top.

Recreational Fire: An outdoor fire burning only clean well season firewood. When the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, portable outdoor fireplace, barbecue grill or barbecue pit and has a total fuel area of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.



March 2018

Burn Outdoors?
Follow the Rules

City of St. Charles

Open Burning,
Recreational Fires
&
Portable Outdoor
Fireplaces



ST. CHARLES
FIRE DEPARTMENT

112 N. Riverside Ave.
St. Charles, IL. 60174
Phone: 630-377-4458

Open Burning

There is no open burning of leaves or brush allowed in the City. Leaves may be placed in yard refuse bags or raked to the parkway for pickup by the City crews during schedule periods. Burning for land management is allowed by special permit on a case by case basis.

A permit is required for all Bon Fires. A permit application may be obtained from the Fire Department.

The information contained in this brochure can also be found on the city website:
www.stcharlesil.gov

Once on the website go to “About”, “Fire”, scroll to bottom of screen and click on “Frequently Asked Questions”

Recreational Fires & Portable Outdoor Fireplaces

The City’s Fire Prevention Code, Title 15, Chapter 15.28, allows recreational fires and the use of portable outdoor fireplaces without a permit, if these guidelines are followed:

- ◆ **Portable outdoor fireplaces** shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions and shall be not be operated within 15 feet (3048 mm) of a structure or combustible material.
**Exception: Portable outdoor fireplaces used at one and two family dwellings with due regard for the safety of a structure or combustible material.*
- ◆ **Recreational Fires** shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.
- ◆ Use only clean, well seasoned wood, **not** leaves, compost, brush, construction debris, waste materials of any kind or holiday decorations/trees.
- ◆ The fire must be constantly attended until extinguished.
- ◆ Some method of fire extinguishment must be available for immediate use (ex. garden hose).
- ◆ Burning is prohibited when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous. Be alert to wind speed/direction and courteous to neighbors.

The Fire Department may order the extinguishment of any burning that creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation or does not meet the distance requirements stated in the code.

The City’s zoning ordinance does not permit the use of outdoor fireplaces in front yards or side yards.

The City has adopted the 2015 edition of the International Fire Code, with local amendments. The complete code requirements can be found in Section 307.

The City recommends good communication with neighbors and hopes a “good neighbor” policy will be adhered to. This minimizes complaints and allows the Fire Department to be available for emergencies.



Please call the St. Charles Fire Prevention Bureau with any questions at 630-377-4457