



PETALUMA FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU
11 English Street, Petaluma, California 94952
Telephone: (707) 778-4389 / Fax: (707) 776-3642
www.cityofpetaluma.net/firedept/prevention.html



OUTDOOR FIREPLACES/BACKYARD BBQ GUIDELINES

INFORMATION:

The following is clarification regarding outdoor fireplaces, backyard campfires, and BBQ use.

WHAT IS NOT PERMITTED:

- Bonfires;
- Open burning on the ground of any kind (except in ground BBQ pits such as pig roasts - see specifics below);
- Burning of rubbish or garbage;
- Burning of brush, tree trimmings, yard waste, etc.; and
- Incinerators.

WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE:

- BBQs (either portable or permanent) for the use of cooking food;
- Maximum 3' diameter metal fire rings with screens or similar devices such as terra cotta fire places/ovens that can be purchased at retail outlets;
- In-ground fire pits used for the express purpose of BBQ operations such as pig roasts. **NOTE:** This type of fire **REQUIRES** a permit from the Fire Prevention Bureau because of the amount of fire and smoke initially generated. Permits must be applied for a minimum of three (3) business days in advance of BBQ pit use. The permit includes conditions for use to ensure the safety of the residents and neighbors. It is also essential to notify Fire Department dispatch to avoid false alarm responses.

THE USE OF THE FIRE RINGS, TERRA COTTA OVENS, AND IN-GROUND BBQ PITS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- Provide a minimum of 15' clearance from all buildings and/or combustible materials (landscaping, fences, wood piles, etc.);
- Weather, wind, humidity and time of day should be considered;
- Have a garden hose or other water source (5 gallon bucket of water) readily available that must be able to reach around fire area;
- The fire must be constantly attended to by an adult while it is burning;
- **Complaints from neighbors because of odor or smoke may necessitate fire extinguishment.**