



Southaven Fire Department

Fire Marshal's Office

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The Southaven Fire Department frequently receives inquiries regarding Fire Pits, Chimineas (Free Standing Fire Pots), and Outdoor Fireplaces. We classify these devices as self-contained **"Portable outdoor fireplaces"**. As such, they fall under the International Fire Code in Section 307 **"Open Burning, Recreational Fires, and Portable Outdoor Fireplaces"**.

The currently adopted edition of the 2012 International Fire Code permits the use of these devices providing they are located at least 15 feet from any combustible material including structures. It is important to be aware that their use can be prohibited if the burning is offensive or objectionable because of smoke emissions or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous. This stipulation intends to protect the public from recreational burning when it endangers the safety, health, or welfare of owners and occupants of property near the burn site or the public in general.

307.1.1 Prohibited open burning.

Open burning that is offensive or objectionable because of smoke emissions or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited. **This would include "Red Flag" days or Air Quality Index days of "Red" or higher.**

307.3 Extinguishment authority.

The fire code official is authorized to order the extinguishment of open burning that creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation.

307.4.3 Portable outdoor fireplaces.

Portable outdoor fireplaces shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall 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.

(The exception exempts one- and two-family dwellings from the requirements of this section. In those occupancies, the level of familiarity and control exercised by the building occupants is recognized as off-setting the hazards of using these devices. There are practical difficulties involved in enforcing such regulations in one- and two-family dwellings as well.)

307.5 Attendance.

Open burning, recreational fires and use of portable outdoor fireplaces shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher complying with Section 906 with a minimum 4-A rating or other approved on-site fire-extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck, shall be available for immediate utilization.

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