



REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

Policy and Procedure Manual



7.14

Fire Rings and Barbecue

I. POLICY

Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District provides campfire rings and barbecues for use by customers at designated Regional Park Campgrounds. This policy establishes basic safety procedures and guidelines and promotes environmental responsibility in the use of campfire rings and barbecues.

II. PURPOSE

To define policy and procedures for the safe and responsible use of campfire rings and barbecues at designated District Regional Park Campgrounds.

III. DEFINITIONS

Campfire: Fire started in an approved campfire ring for the purpose of heating and/or cooking. Campfires shall maintain a height of no more than twenty-four (24) inches from the bottom of the campfire ring.

Campfire Ring: A metal ring purchased, installed, and maintained by the District for the intended purpose of campfires.

Barbecue: A stand-up grill to be used for the purpose of cooking food.

Stove: Any propane, electric, or gas-fueled device used for the purpose of cooking food.

Fuel: Any combustible material used to start or maintain a campfire, including but not limited to: propane, wood, various untreated paper products, charcoal briquettes, and lighter fluid.

Contained Flame: Flame that is contained within a campfire ring, fire pit, barbecue, or stove.

Open Flame: Any flame that is not contained within a campfire ring, fire pit, barbecue, or stove.



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Ground Fire: Any fire not contained in a campfire ring or fire pit, on the ground, and often surrounded by a ring of rocks.

Bonfire: Any fire with flame greater than twenty-four (24) inches in height.

IV. PROCEDURE

- A. Installation, maintenance and inspection of District-provided campfire rings and barbecues.
 1. Approved campfire rings are purchased and installed according to manufacturer guidelines.
 2. The area immediately around campfire rings shall be bare soil for a minimum of 5' in all directions, or up to 10' when possible.
 3. Clearance above campfire rings and barbecues shall be a minimum of 10'.
 4. Only approved and established campgrounds, campfire rings and barbecues may be used.
- B. Safe and responsible use of campfire rings and barbecues.
 1. Customers are required to have a responsible person monitoring their campfire/barbecue at all times. No fire should be left unattended at any time, under any circumstances.
 2. Ground fires or open flames are not permitted.
 3. Customers are responsible for ensuring that fires are extinguished properly. Campers should have a shovel and water readily available at the campfire site.
 4. The District may restrict or prohibit the use of campfire rings and/or barbecues at any time.
- C. Only approved fuel shall be used to start and/or maintain a campfire. Permissible fuels include:



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1. Wood
 - a. Wood shall not exceed the size of the campfire ring or fire pit being used. Recommend wood is cut in 16" length or less.
 - b. Untreated wood is the only acceptable type of wood that may be used.
 - c. Any pallets must be broken down prior to use in a fire.
 - d. Fire starter logs are permitted to be used in designated campfire rings and approved fire pits.
2. Flammable Liquids and Gasses
 - a. Propane campfire rings and barbecues are permitted.
 - b. Lighter fluid may only be used to start a fire and shall not be applied to an already established fire.
 - c. Gasoline and/or diesel fuel are not permitted for starting campfires, lighting barbecues, or maintaining fires at any time.
 - d. Flammable liquids should be stored a safe distance away from tents and RV's. Use flammable liquids only for their intended purpose.
 - e. Never let children use or play with lighter fluid or allow them start a campfire.
 - f. Keep lanterns and open flames outside of tents.
3. Charcoal Briquettes
 - a. Any type of commercially available briquette may be used.
 - b. Disposal of hot coals in trash cans is prohibited. Spent fuels should be left inside the campfire ring and/or barbecue.
4. Burning of garbage, including but not limited to plastics, bottles, and cans, is prohibited.



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D. Health and Safety Codes / Environmental Responsibility:

1. Liability for Damage. Any person who personally (or allows another person to) willfully, negligently or in violation of law, sets fire to, allows fire to be set to, or allows a fire kindled or attended by him or her to escape to the property of another, whether privately or publicly owned, is liable to the property's owner for any damages caused by the fire.
2. Due Diligence Required. Any person who allows a fire burning upon his or her campsite to escape to the property of another, whether privately or publicly owned, without exercising due diligence to control such fire, is liable to the owner of such property for the damages to the property caused by the fire.
3. Expense of fighting fires, liability for. Any person who negligently or in violation of the law, sets a fire, allows a fire to be set, allows a fire kindled or attended by him or her to escape onto any public or private property will be financially responsible for the firefighting costs.
4. The District encourages and supports the "burn it where you buy it" campaign to avoid the spreading of the *Gold Spotted Oak Borer* and other pests or invasive species.

Policy 7.14 *Fire Rings and Barbecues in Regional Parks*

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Editor: Dixon, Ann, Parks Superintendent

Reviewed by: Brown, Kyla, Chief – Parks and Recreation

Approved by: Bangle, Scott, Parks Director

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