



City of Anaheim
Fire Department
Fire Prevention Bureau
Specifications and Requirements

Subject: OPEN BURNING AND RECREATIONAL FIRE PERMITS

References: California Fire Code 2007 Edition, Chapter 3, Section 307, 105.3.30

This specification addresses the requirements for a permit to conduct open burning or a recreational fire in the City of Anaheim. Permits are not required when briquettes or charcoal are used. This specification does not apply to fires conducted indoors in commercial barbecue pits or permanent outdoor fireplaces. Permanent outdoor fireplaces are made of masonry or concrete and must be permitted by the City of Anaheim Building Division when constructed.

All permits for open burning or recreational fires can be issued for a period of one year. A plan showing the location of the fire with respect to buildings, property lines and combustible materials, including trees, shall be submitted for approval with each application for a permit.

Recreational fires (less than 2 feet by 3 feet) do not require a permit unless the recreational fire is conducted in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone within the City of Anaheim. This zone is predominately those parcels of land adjacent to undeveloped brush covered land.

Bonfires or open burning must be permitted by the City of Anaheim Fire Department when conducted anywhere within the city limits.

Rubbish is not allowed to be burned in the City of Anaheim per State law regulated by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD). Agricultural burning is allowed only by permit from the AQMD. The land used for agricultural burning must remain agricultural land and not be commercially developed.

OPEN BURNING PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Definition. The burning of a bonfire or other fire where the fuel area is greater than three feet in diameter or greater than two feet in height.

Notification. Prior to commencement of open burning the Fire Department shall be notified by calling (714) 533-1305. Burning will not be allowed when a Santa Ana wind condition exists.

Location. Open burning shall not be conducted within 50 feet of any structure or other combustible material. Conditions that could cause the fire to spread to within 50 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

Fire-Extinguishing Equipment. A garden hose connected to a water supply or other approved fire-extinguishing equipment shall be readily available for use at open burning sites. Portable extinguishers cannot be used for an open burn.

Attendance. Burning material shall be constantly attended by a person knowledgeable in the use of the fire-extinguishing equipment, required by the section above and be familiar with the permit limitations that restrict open burning. An attendant shall supervise the burning material until the fire has been extinguished.

Discontinuance. The chief is authorized to require that open burning be immediately discontinued if the chief determines that smoke emissions are offensive to occupants of surrounding property, or if the open burning is determined by the chief to constitute a hazardous condition.

RECREATIONAL FIRE PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Definition. A smaller type fire with a total fuel area of three feet or less in diameter and two feet or less in height and the fuel is capable of producing embers. Charcoal or briquette fires are not regulated and do not require a permit.

Notification. Prior to commencement of a recreational fire, the Fire Department shall be notified by calling (714) 533-1305. Fires will not be allowed when a Santa Ana wind condition exists.

Location. Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure, combustible material or trees. If the fire is contained in a barbecue pit the clearances may be reduced to 15 feet. Conditions that could cause a fire to spread to within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

Fire-Extinguishing Equipment. Buckets, shovels, garden hoses or a fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating shall be readily available for use at recreational fires.

Attendance. Recreational fires shall be constantly attended by a person knowledgeable in the use of the fire-extinguishing equipment required by the section above. An attendant shall supervise a recreational fire until such fire has been extinguished.

Discontinuance. The chief is authorized to require that recreational fires be immediately discontinued if such fires are determined by the chief to constitute a hazardous condition.

Barbecue Pit: A trench in which wood is burned to make a bed of hot coals. An open burning permit will be required for a fire conducted in a barbecue pit if the fire is greater than three feet in diameter and two feet in height. The permit is required for all fires contained in a pit located anywhere within the city limits.

Chimney: A permit is not required for burning in a chimney unless it is located in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

For further information regarding these requirements contact: Fire Prevention Bureau at (714) 765-4040 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.