



Fire Pit and Chimenea Fires

THIS IS NOT THE SAME AS OPEN BURNING - A PERMIT IS NOT REQUIRED

There are several requirements based on Department of Environmental Protection regulations (DEP), the Massachusetts State Fire Laws & Codes, and the 2009 International Fire Code (IFC):

ALL FIRES MUST BE PRIMARILY USED FOR COOKING PER 527 CMR, MGL 48, AND THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- ❖ The fire must be small and manageable, no greater than 3 feet in diameter.
- ❖ **All fires must be constantly attended by a competent person 21 years of age or older until the fire is extinguished.** It is required to keep a fire extinguisher, garden hose, or water bucket available for quick extinguishment if necessary.
Fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible materials.
- ❖ The fire pit should be placed on a flat, noncombustible surface.
- ❖ **DO NOT START FIRES ON WINDY DAYS.**
- ❖ The burning of trash, rubbish, painted or stained wood and construction debris is prohibited by DEP. Only clean, split wood may be burned.
- ❖ **Do not cause a nuisance or health hazard to your neighbors.** Always use dry seasoned wood, charcoal, or specialist fuel (e.g. wood burning briquettes). If the Topsfield Fire Department receives complaints from neighbors that the smoke or smell is bothersome, you may be instructed to extinguish the fire.
- ❖ Never use an accelerant to light any fire.

If a complaint or concern is received, the Topsfield Fire Department reserves the right to extinguish or order any fire to be extinguished at the responding crew's discretion.

If you have any further questions related to the use of fire pits and recreational fires, please call the Topsfield Fire Department at 978-887-5148.