

Recreational Fire Safety: Important Rules and Reminders

by Mark Sitarz, Fire Chief

Recreational fires provide a great opportunity for family and friends to sit together, catch up on new things, and relax. Before planning your next get-together around the firepit, make sure you have obtained a permit, understand and follow the safety rules, and show common courtesy towards your neighbors.

Burning items such as leaves, brush or construction debris is prohibited. These items can create a considerable amount of smoke and an unpleasant odor when burned. Use only clean, dry wood in your recreational fire.

The City of St. Anthony requires a permit to have recreational fires. To acquire a free permit, go to savmn.com/RecreationalFires to complete an online application.

Permit holders need to abide by the following rules:

- A fire must be limited to 3 feet in diameter and a 3 foot high flame.
- Only unpainted and untreated dry wood or charcoal may be burned. No construction debris, household materials, leaves or grass are allowed.
- Smoke must not extend beyond the property line.
- A garden hose or adequate fire extinguisher must be on site.
- A responsible adult must be on site until fire is extinguished.
- Fire must be extinguished before leaving the site.
- Fire shall never be left unattended.
- Ashes and coals should not be allowed to smolder.
- Fire should be in an adequate fire ring, raised fire pit, or other approved containment system.
- Recreational fires shall not be closer than 25 feet from any structure, including decks.
- No burning when the Air Quality Index is greater than 50.
- No burning when the wind speed is greater than 20 miles per hour.
- Recreational fires are allowed for food preparation.
- Hours for campfires:
 - Sunday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.
 - Friday, Saturday and holidays, from 9 a.m. to midnight.
- When conditions are extremely dry, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) can impose a burning ban which means recreational fires are not allowed in certain areas due to an increased fire risk.

Enjoy your time around the campfire by following the above rules, be safe, and show consideration to those around you.