

Permitted Open Fires and Burn Permits

The City of Cedar Springs Fire Department (CSFD) welcomes citizens' safe use of open fires for both cooking and entertainment. For the safety of all citizens, the Cedar Springs Fire Department asks that you follow certain safety precautions in order to safely conduct your permitted open fire. Open fires must be attended and supervised by a competent person at least 18 years of age and that person shall have readily available fire extinguishing equipment (hose, fire extinguisher) as may be necessary for extinguishing the fire.

1. Charcoal cookers, braziers, hibachis, grills, chimneas, patio warmers, outdoor fireplaces or gas-fired stoves and similar semi-enclosed devices (fire-rings and fire-pits) are permitted on the premises of a residential dwelling; provided that:
 - a) If it is a rental, that you have your landlord's permission to have or use any of the above on the property.
 - b) The fire or device is located at least 25 feet from any structure on your neighbor's property (including houses, sheds ,garages etc.).
 - c) The fire or device must be a minimum of 8 feet from every part of your house, shed or garage including balconies, overhangs or protrusions while in use. The fire or device may not be used on an elevated balcony above ground level at any apartment building, townhouse, condominium or similar housing.
 - d) You only burn propane, natural gas, charcoal or natural wood (no glue, resin, paint, plastic etc.) and a small amount of paper for ignition. It is unlawful to burn garbage, rubbish, waste, food containers, grass, leaves or yard waste.
 - e) The device must have a lid, door, cover or spark shield that can securely close or cover the fire.
 - f) The fire is not larger than 9 square feet and the flames less than 3 feet tall.
 - g) Fires under this section shall not generate noxious odors, excessive smoke or sparks.
 - h) Fires under this section are permitted between 7 a.m. and 11:59 p.m.
 - i) Fires under this section may be banned during ozone action days, dry and/or windy days or during State or area wide burn bans.
 - j) Fires under this section do not require a burn permit.
2. Any proposed open fire in the City or Township under CSFD jurisdiction that is unable to meet all of the above requirements must seek and receive a burn permit from the City of Cedar Springs Fire Department at (616) 696-1221. The Fire Department will ask which requirements the proposed open fire cannot meet and may conduct a site visit prior to issuing a burn permit. The Fire Department will also require identifying information to issue the burn permit such as name, address, phone number and proposed dates and time for the fire. The Fire Department is not required to issue a burn permit if it identifies safety deficiencies in the proposed fire plan.
3. Violations of the City's fire ordinances may result in a warning, extinguishment of the fire, municipal fines, cost recovery, injunctive relief or other remedies.