

REGULATIONS FOR OPEN BURNING

1. Open burning for land clearing and debris disposal is prohibited (without a permit).
2. Warming fires at holiday sale lots and construction sites are permitted with restrictions. See Recreational Fires below.
3. Permits are required for Pit Burns, Agricultural Burns, and Bonfires.
4. All open burning including bonfires, recreational fires and the use of portable outdoor fireplaces shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. Not less than one portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating or other approved on-site fire-extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck, shall be available for immediate use.
5. Hot embers and ashes shall be thoroughly extinguished when the fire will no longer be attended and prior to disposal in a non-combustible container.
6. Where open burning creates or adds to a hazardous situation, or a required permit for open burning has not been obtained, the *fire code official* is authorized to order the extinguishment of the open burning operation.
7. A person shall not take or utilize an open flame or light in a structure, vessel, boat or other place where highly flammable, combustible or explosive material is utilized or stored.

Open Burning

Open burning is defined as the burning of materials wherein products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber. Chesapeake allows open burning with restrictions.

See the [Open Air Burn Policy](#) for details.

Recreational Fires

A recreational fire is defined as an outdoor fire where the fuel being burned is not contained in an outdoor fireplace, barbeque grill, or pit and has a total fuel area of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, or warmth. Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material. Conditions that could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

Bonfires

A bonfire is defined as an outdoor fire used for ceremonial purposes. A bonfire shall not be conducted within 50 feet of a structure or combustible material unless the fire is contained in a barbecue pit. Conditions that could cause a fire to spread within 50 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition. All bonfires require a permit from the Chesapeake Fire Marshal's Office.

Portable Outdoor Fireplaces

Portable outdoor fireplaces shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material. Exception: Portable outdoor fireplaces used at one- and two-family dwellings.

Agricultural Burning

Agricultural burning is defined as open burning on farm land within the City of Chesapeake to facilitate the removal of plant growth (trees, limbs, brush, grass, crops) on the farm. Agricultural burning requires a permit through the Chesapeake Fire Marshal's Office and follows strict [Conditions and Stipulations](#).

Pit Burning

Pit burning is defined as the burning of land clearing debris on the permitted property. Debris cannot be relocated from another property. Pit burning requires a permit from the Chesapeake Fire Marshal's Office and follows strict [Conditions and Stipulations](#).

Open Flame Cooking Devices

Charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction.

Exceptions:

1. One- and two-family dwellings.
2. Where buildings, balconies and decks are protected by an automatic sprinkler system.
3. LP-gas cooking devices having LP-gas container with a water capacity not greater than 2½ pounds [nominal 1 pound (0.454 kg) LP-gas capacity].

Chesapeake
VIRGINIA

FIRE DEPARTMENT