



## BONFIRE / RECREATIONAL FIRE

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These guidelines are to be followed when a person, group, or organization proposes to perform an organized bonfire or recreational fire, within the City of Rockwall. Residential property owners with land parcels 2 acres and greater who are interested in the on-site burning of residential yard and garden debris and waste plant growth only, see the Residential Open Burn Policy. For all other outdoor burning activities, contact the Rockwall Fire Marshal Division for requirements, including land clearing operations, trench burning, etc.

### Definitions:

**BONFIRE.** An outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes.

**RECREATIONAL FIRE.** An outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, portable outdoor fireplace, barbeque grill or barbeque 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, warmth or similar purposes.

### General Requirements

- 1) Burning that is offensive or objectionable because of smoke emissions or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited.
- 2) Burning shall be commenced and conducted only when wind direction and other meteorological conditions are such that smoke and other pollutants will not cause adverse effects to any public road, landing strip, navigable water, or off-site structure containing sensitive receptor(s).
- 3) The location for bonfires shall not be less than 300-feet from any structure, and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 300-feet of any structure or adjacent properties unless prior written approval is obtained from the adjacent occupant with possessory control.
- 4) The location for recreational fires shall not be less than 25-feet from any structure, and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 25-feet of any structure or adjacent properties unless prior written approval is obtained from the adjacent occupant with possessory control.
- 5) Burning shall not be commenced when surface wind speed is predicted to be less than six miles per hour (mph) (five knots) or greater than 23 mph (20 knots) during the burn period.
- 6) Electrical insulation, treated lumber, plastics, non-wood construction/demolition materials, heavy oils, asphaltic materials, potentially explosive materials, chemical wastes, and items containing natural or synthetic rubber must not be burned.
- 7) Bonfires or recreational fires shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished.
- 8) A minimum of 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 utilization, or as otherwise required by the Fire Department.

### Submittal Requirements

- 9) A site plan/drawing of the proposed burn site area, to include vehicle parking, buildings, obstructions, and roadways. Indicate distance to any structure on the property and any adjoining property.
- 10) List of materials to be burned.
- 11) Each submittal shall have a completed Rockwall Fire Marshal Division Permit Application.



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### **Additional Information**

- 1) The party responsible for the burn remains liable for damages, injuries, or other consequences that may result from burning, even when it is carried out in compliance with these regulations.
- 2) These requirements and permit also do not exempt or excuse anyone from complying with all other applicable Texas Commissions on Environmental Quality and the Texas Clean Air Act rules and requirements.
- 3) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally or knowingly, with respect to the person's conduct, violates the General Requirements for Allowable Outdoor burning or any other rule promulgated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality regarding outdoor burning. An offense is punishable for an individual by a fine of not less than \$1,000 or more than \$50,000, confinement in the county jail for a period not to exceed 180 days, or both. An offense is punishable for a person other than an individual by fine of not less than \$1,000 or more than \$100,000.