



## Office of the Fire Marshal

Frederick County Fire and Rescue Services Division  
5370 Public Safety Place  
Frederick, MD 21704  
301-600-1479



### Use of Fire Pits, Fire Bowls and Chimineas in One- and Two-Family Homes

The Use of Fire Pits, Fire Bowls, Chimineas and other similar appliances for recreational fires has become popular in our Community. Frederick County Fire and Rescue Service would like to share with you the criteria for their use.

- You must have permission of the land owner.
- There must be one person at least 18 years of age present at all times to assume responsibility for the use of these appliances.
- A permit from the Fire Marshal or the Department of Environmental Health is **not** required for recreational fires.
- Use in accordance to the manufacturer's guidelines. Once you purchase this appliance, keep these guidelines in a safe place for future reference.
- Use of Fire Pits, Fire Bowls, Chimineas and similar portable devices must be at least 15 feet away from any structure or combustible material, this would include wooden fences.
- Keep a clear area (clear meaning free of anything that can burn) of at least 3 feet in diameter around the appliance. Please remember that mulch can burn so keep your appliance at least 3 feet away from mulch as well.
- Do not use or store Fire Pits, Fire Bowls, Chimineas or similar devices on a balcony or deck.
- Burn only aged dried wood. The burning of any type of construction material or trash is prohibited.
- Do not use any type of flammable or combustible liquid at any time.
- Have a garden hose connected to a constant water source available and close by.
- Smoke shall not be a nuisance to neighbors. Be mindful of the wind speed and direction prior to starting this type of fire.
- Do not use on days that a total burn ban has been placed in affect by the Authority Having Jurisdiction.
- At the conclusion of your fire, all left over hot ashes must be thoroughly dampened, and left to cool. Dispose of all ashes in a safe manner, we recommend they be stored in a metal can that is used solely for ash storage. Ashes that are 2 or 3 days old may appear to be safe, but can still retain enough heat to cause an unwanted fire. Do not discard hot ashes in a compost pile, paper bag cardboard box or in or near anything that is combustible. Also, be careful when handling partially burned wood, the wood may still be smoldering and cause a serious burn.



Please keep in mind, that if the Fire Department is contacted and determines your situation to be a nuisance or fire hazard, the Fire Department can require you to extinguish your fire.

If additional questions arise, please call the Office of the Fire Marshal.

