

RUIDOSO FIRE DEPARTMENT

541 Sudderth Dr.
575-257-3473



Open Fire Pit Guide

The following rules cover wood-burning, gas-burning, or other outdoor heating devices. Regardless of specifications, individual precautions should always take place. Special consideration for high-winds and other weather conditions should be at the forefront of one's decision to conduct any type of outdoor burning. It's **NOT** advisable to conduct any outdoor burning with wind speeds more than 9 mph in this area due to our area's wildland urban interface. Additional limitations are placed when the Village reaches Level II or III fire restrictions. See back of flyer for more details.



Wood Burning Devices

Wood-burning fires must be maintained in a commercially constructed and commercially approved fire pit or fire containment device meeting the following requirements:

1. Contents must be completely contained - no open
2. front and no open chimney.
3. The bed of any open fire or fire containment device may not be more than 36 inches in diameter.
4. If raised, the device cannot allow embers or ash to fall through to the ground below.
5. Be surrounded by a six-foot safety radius that contains no combustible materials on the ground or overhead. **(This includes wooden and plastic decks.)**
6. Must be at least fifteen (15) feet from any structure.
7. Completely covered by a metal screen with holes no larger than one-quarter inch.
8. Have a sufficient water supply (or appropriate extinguishing agent) within 5 feet to immediately extinguish an ignition of vegetation or ordinary combustibles.
9. Be immovable and non-portable.
10. Have an on-site, valid permit which can be physically produced upon request.

Gas Burning Devices



Gas-burning fires must be commercially constructed and commercially approved (UL, CSA or ANSI); meeting the following requirements:

1. Must be at least fifteen (15) feet from any structure.
2. Be surrounded by a six-foot safety radius that contains no combustible materials on the ground or overhead.
3. If permanent, must be installed, inspected and pressure tested by a professional who is licensed to perform such inspections and tests. (Proof of this will be required).
4. Have an easily identifiable and easily operational means to shut the fuel supply off.
5. Have an on-site, valid permit which can be physically produced upon request.
6. Have a sufficient water supply (or appropriate extinguishing agent) within 5 feet to immediately extinguish an ignition of vegetation or ordinary combustibles.

Outdoor Heating Devices



Patio LP gas devices:

1. Must be commercially constructed, commercially approved, and used according to intended purpose only. (UL, CSA, or ANSI)
2. Must be equipped with an anti-tilt safety switch.
3. Must be at least 18 inches from any combustible materials.
4. If the device produces any visible flame, the device must adhere to the "Recreational Fire Devices" portion of this ordinance.
5. Electric Heating Devices
 1. Must be commercially constructed, commercially approved, and used according to intended purpose only.
 2. Must be attached directly to a GFCI outlet with no extension cord or multi-outlet power strip.

Permitting Process

Inspection: All fire pits must first be inspected by the Fire Chief, Fire Marshal, or their designee to ensure compliance with VOR ordinances. Once passed, the individual seeking the permit will receive a *Permit Application*.

Permit Payment: Once the applicant seeking the permit has received the *Permit Application*, they will take the application to 313 Cree Meadows and make payment of the \$200 permit fee. Each permit is only valid for one specific device. Once paid, the Village will return the permit application with a copy of the receipt.

Obtaining Permit: The application/receipt is then taken by the applicant to Fire Station 1 located at 541 Sudderth and the Permit is issued by the Fire Marshal. Fire permits are valid for 1 full year. Permits are suspended when the Village of Ruidoso enters level II or III Fire restrictions. Issued fire permits must be on-site and produced upon request. The Fire Chief or Fire Marshal retains the power to waive fees associated with any open fire permit as deemed appropriate with non-profit fundraisers.

Items requiring a fire permit are:

- a. Any open flame that is not associated with cooking.
- b. Any use of fire that is forbidden under the current fire restriction.

Unauthorized use of fire

Any person who violates any of the provisions of the codes adopted by this article or fails to comply therewith shall be subject to a misdemeanor with a maximum penalty of \$500 and up to 90 days in jail.

NOTE: Gas burning and Wood burning recreational fires are never allowed on Village of Ruidoso property such as parks, lakes, and campgrounds.

Sec. 42-35. - Fire restrictions.

The fire chief has the authority to set restrictions on outdoor fire pits, outdoor cooking devices, outdoor smoking, fire used as it pertains to one's profession (such as welding) special use fires and all other uses of fire which could result in a wildland fire event. These restrictions are based on fire potential as it relates to fuel moisture, wind, and daily temperatures. The restrictions are generally as follows, but can be amended by the fire chief:

Level I.

- a. No restrictions other than those defined by the fire code. Sections 22-31 and 42-33.

Level II.

- a. All the restrictions of level I.
- b. Any cooking or recreational device that uses charcoal or wood is not allowed.
- c. Gas and pellet cooking devices are allowed but must be attended at all times.
- d. Campfires and any unpermitted recreational fire devices are not allowed.
- e. Outdoor smoking is not allowed on public or private property unless the area has been specifically permitted by the fire code official.
- f. Operating small internal combustion engine equipment is allowed so long as it is equipped with a spark arresting device.
- g. Open fires conducted in the pursuit of one's profession (welding, hot tar roofing, driveway sealing, etc.) are allowed by permit only.
- h. All issued fire permits for recreational fire devices are void.
- i. Ignition and or detonation of fireworks is prohibited.

Fire Restrictions continued...

Level III.

- a. All the restrictions of level II.
- b. Welding, metal grinding, hot tar roofing, driveway sealing, oxy-acetylene metal cutting, and any other work which produces a hot ember or visible flame are not allowed.
- c. Operating small internal combustion engine equipment is not allowed.
- d. Outdoor smoking is not allowed.



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**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
[WWW.RUIDOSO-NM.GOV/RUIDOSO-
FIRE-DEPARTMENT](http://WWW.RUIDOSO-NM.GOV/RUIDOSO-FIRE-DEPARTMENT)**