



Northville Township Fire Department

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Quick Reference Guide

Outdoor fire guidelines by type

See the Definitions section for additional information, definitions and examples of outdoor fires.

Type	Fuel Type	Minimum Distance (ft.) ¹ (multi-family housing, i.e. apartments, condominiums, townhouses)	Minimum Distance (ft.) ¹ (1-and-2 family housing ⁴)	Permit required
Bonfire	Wood	50 ft.	50 ft.	Yes
Recreational burn	Wood	25 ft.	25 ft.	No
Portable outdoor fireplace ³	Wood	15 ft.	Follow manufacturer's instructions.	No
Portable outdoor fireplace ³	Propane	15 ft.	Follow manufacturer's instructions.	No
Outdoor fire pit (fixed) ² (Total fuel load less than 3' in diameter by 2' in height)	Wood	15 ft.	Follow manufacturer's instructions, but no less than 10 feet.	No
Outdoor fireplace (fixed) ²	Wood	Contact Building Department. Must be installed per manufacturer's instructions, IFGC, IMC, IRC, and MBC.	Contact Building Department. Must be installed per manufacturer's instructions, IFGC, IMC, IRC, and MBC.	Yes. Building permit.
Outdoor fireplace or fire pit (fixed) ²	Natural gas	Contact Building Department. Must be installed per manufacturer's instructions, IFGC, IMC, IRC, and MBC.	Contact Building Department. Must be installed per manufacturer's instructions, IFGC, IMC, IRC, and MBC.	Yes. Building permit.
Occupational fires	Wood	15 ft.	15 ft.	No
Prescribed burning	N/A	See Prescribed Burning Regulations.	See Prescribed Burning Regulations.	Yes
Patio heaters	Propane	See Patio Heater Regulations.	Follow manufacturer's instructions.	No
Outdoor grilling	Various	See Outdoor Grilling Regulations.	Follow manufacturer's instructions.	No

¹ Minimum distance means the distance from any structure or combustible material or construction including homes, decks, sheds, fences, etc.

² Fixed means nonportable; cannot easily be moved; permanent in nature.

³ Portable outdoor fireplace must be commercially manufactured and include manufacturer's instructions.

⁴ 1-and-2 family dwellings are defined as dwelling units consisting of one-and-two families only. Due to the hazards associated with the increased building size, the increased number of occupants, and anticipated fire travel any structure that exceeds two families (duplex) is considered to be a multifamily dwelling for the purposes of outdoor fires.