

Bonfire Permit Requirements

2024

Purpose

To help citizens obtain a bonfire permit and understand fire code requirements for such activities.

Scope

This document applies to all areas within the Colorado Springs city limits.

Note that bonfire permits will not be issued during times when the city is under Burn Restrictions or Burn Bans.

General

Per section 105.5.34.1 of the 2021 International Fire Code (IFC), as adopted, “An operational permit is required for the kindling or maintaining of an open fire or a fire on any public street, alley, road or other public or private ground. Instructions and stipulations of the permit shall be complied with.”

Additionally, Section 307.2 states that “a permit shall be obtained from the fire code official... prior to... a bonfire.”

Bonfire permits shall adhere to the following requirements per IFC Section 307.4 and 307.5:

- Positioned not less than 50 feet from any structure or combustible materials
- Provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 50 feet of any structure
- Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 50 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition
- Constantly attended by at least one alert, ambulatory unimpaired, responsible adult until the fire is extinguished
- Minimum of 1 portable fire extinguisher with an annual inspection less than 12 mos. old, with minimum rating of 4-A required on site
- Other on-site fire extinguishing equipment may be allowed in lieu of the fire extinguisher(s) and available for immediate utilization. Examples include but aren't limited to:
 - Dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose, water truck, etc.
- Must be constructed of solid wood products as approved and void of any trash, debris, or rubbish
- Flammable liquids shall not be used as an ignition source



Large Bonfires per IFC Section 307.4.1.2: (Bonfires larger than 8 feet in any dimension)

- Bonfires greater than 8ft in any dimension require plan submittal for review and acceptance prior to paying fees
- Such bonfires also require fire department apparatus standby to be paid by the permit holder at the rate(s) per the approved/adopted fee schedule
- Fees shall be paid prior to scheduling of fire inspection

To Apply for a Bonfire Permit

- Submit application via the portal at <https://bit.ly/csfdpermitportal>
- Create an account
- Instructions for creating an account and submitting an application can be found at <https://coloradosprings.gov/fire-code-resources>
- Apply for the following permit: “Temporary Open Burning Permit”
- Plans reviewed and accepted (if applicable)
- Pay the permit and inspection fee (plus standby fees if applicable)
- Call 719-385-5978, Option 5 to schedule the inspection. This must be done no less than 3 business days from date of bonfire.

Day of Bonfire

- Fire inspection is required prior to ignition of the bonfire
- Prevailing winds that are dangerously high at the time of the inspection may cause the permit not to be issued
- Applicant is responsible for monitoring winds and/or dangerous weather and responsible for taking appropriate actions to prevent the bonfire from getting out of control
- Bonfires conducted w/o permits and/or inspections are considered “Work Without a Permit;” additional fees will be imposed
- Should the bonfire get out of control, immediately dial 9-1-1
- Non-permitted bonfires that get out of control or cause property damage will be subject to arson charges

Be advised that the Division of the Fire Marshal has the authority to order the extinguishment by the permit holder, another person responsible, or the Colorado Springs Fire Department of any open burning that creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation.