
The City of Ankeny has adopted the International Fire Code which allows for recreational fires as long as the regulations are followed. A permit is not required for a recreational fire though is subject to and regulated by the following guidelines, see general information and definitions below:

Prohibited open burning. Open burning that will be offensive or objectionable because of smoke or odor emissions when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous or objectionable shall be prohibited. Ankeny Fire, Police and Code Enforcement personnel are authorized to order the extinguishment of open burning.

Recreational Fire. An outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish/refuse where fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, barbecue grill or barbecue pit and **has a total area of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height** for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.

Bonfire. An outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes with a pile size exceeding the recreational fire limits shall be defined as a bonfire. (approval and a permit shall be obtained from the Fire Chief prior to kindling a bonfire)

Approved container. A non-combustible fireplace, pit or other non-combustible wood-burning appliance system (kiva, chimenea etc) provided all openings are protected with spark arrestors constructed of heavy iron, heavy wire mesh or other non-combustible material with openings no larger than 1/4".

Locations for open burning:

- Recreational fires shall not be less than 25 feet from structures, combustibles and property lines.
- Fires in approved containers shall not be less than 15 feet from structures, combustibles and property lines.
- Bonfires shall not be less than 50 feet from structures, combustibles and property lines (permit required).

Attendance:

- The fire shall be attended by a responsible adult at all times.
- The attendant shall be knowledgeable in the use of fire extinguishing equipment.
- The attendant shall supervise the fire until it has been fully extinguished.

Fire extinguishment equipment options:

- 4-A (minimum rating) portable fire extinguisher
- Water hose
- Dirt, sand, water barrel

Fuels Permitted

- Untreated wood, logs, branches
- Coal

Fuels Not Permitted

Rubbish/refuse such as - painted/stained/treated wood, garbage, rubbish, vegetation, grass clippings, leaves, rubber, plastic, flammable/combustible liquids (paint, used oil etc)