

ATTACHMENT G

Bonfires and Pit Barbeques

HOW TO USE THIS ATTACHMENT

This attachment contains information related to bonfires and pit barbeques (BBQs).

In addition to the generic event information listed in the “Submittal Requirements” section in Guideline S-01, the information in the “Additional Submittal Requirements” section of this attachment must be provided with your permit application.

The “Technical Information” section of this attachment outlines code requirements and safety provisions. The specifications for many of the items listed as submittal requirements can be found here, so review of the entire attachment is recommended as you prepare your special event application. As you organize and set up your event, go over the information in this attachment with the crew, operational personnel, and other responsible parties to facilitate a successful fire safety inspection and a safe and code-compliant event.

ADDITIONAL SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the standard special event information listed under the “Submittal Requirements” section in Guideline S-01, the information listed in this “Additional Submittal Requirements” section shall be provided as part of the application.

On the Exterior Plans

- Show the location of the bonfire or BBQ pit with distances to nearby structures, trees, shrubs, overhead wires, and other combustibles
- Indicate dimensions of the fuel pile (height and width/diameter) or pit (length, width, depth);
- Indicate whether the pit will be open or covered and, if covered, with what material

Other Information

- Indicate the type of fuel being used
- Indicate the method of extinguishing hot coals and ashes
- Indicate the expected duration of the fire
- Indicate what actions, if any, will be taken to prevent the spread of fire to adjacent vegetation.

Depending on the scope of the event or other considerations, the inspector reviewing the project may need more information in order to complete an evaluation of the event and provide conditions of approval to mitigate the potential hazards.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

SCOPE

The requirements that follow are intended to provide a minimum level of safety for bonfires and BBQ pits. For purposes of this guideline, the term “bonfire” includes any outdoor fire of any size used for pleasure, warmth, cooking, social, religious, cultural, ceremonial, or similar purposes; “pit BBQ” refers to cooking in a covered or uncovered trench or pit in the ground as well cooking utilizing a mobile BBQ trailer, also known as Santa Maria style BBQ.

A special event permit application from OCFA is typically not required for bonfires or cooking within approved devices such as:

- Portable fireplaces or chimineas and personal BBQs used on residential properties in accordance with the device manufacturer’s instructions;
- Permanent BBQs, fireplaces, and fire rings constructed in accordance with applicable codes and approved by the building department;
- Fire rings and fixed or portable personal BBQs where allowed by a city, county, or state agency at designated parks, campgrounds, and beaches.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

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- Fires shall be conducted in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. Consult with SCAQMD and the local code enforcement official prior to conducting any fires. If approval is not obtained from all necessary regulatory agencies, the OCFA permit shall be void.
- The fire or associated activities shall not obstruct fire lanes. A fire lane with a minimum clearance of 20’ wide and 13’ 6” high shall be provided to within 150 feet of the bonfire or pit BBQ when required by the fire inspector.
- One hour prior to burning, the OCFA dispatch center shall be notified of the event: (714) 573-6500.

FIRE PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

- At least one 4-A fire extinguisher, a garden hose, water truck or other approved fire extinguishing equipment shall be available on-site for immediate utilization.

CONTROL OF IGNITION SOURCES

- Fires shall not be conducted closer to structures than specified below:
 - 50 feet where the fuel pile for a bonfire is larger than 3 feet in diameter or 2 feet in height
 - 25 feet where the fuel pile for a bonfire is smaller than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height

- 15 to 25 feet for a BBQ pit/trailer, depending on size, combustibility of adjacent structures, and other factors
- 15 feet when a fire is in a portable fireplace or other approved device
- Bonfires, pit/trailer BBQs, and other open flames are prohibited inside of or within 20 feet of tents, canopies, or membrane structures. This distance may be increased depending on the size of the fire or other conditions.
- Conditions, such as dry vegetation, leaf litter, or other combustibles, that could cause a fire to spread within the distances to a structure specified above shall be eliminated prior to ignition.
- No burning shall take place:
 - with wood or other solid fuel if wind velocity exceeds 8 miles per hour. (Wind will extend a small flag.)
 - if a red flag condition has been declared.
 - if relative humidity is predicted to drop below 25%. Inquire about predicted humidity from the OCFA dispatch center.
- At least one adult shall constantly attend and supervise the fire until it is completely extinguished. All hot embers shall be completely extinguished before leaving.