

ROSS VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT



Developed by

Robert Bastianon, Fire Inspector
Approved by

Roger Meagor, Fire Chief

Fire Protection Standard 517A

Open Burning and Recreational Fires

Date: 9/8/08

Revision: _____

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This standard has been developed pursuant to Chapter 3 of the California Fire Code and Appendix II-A of the Uniform Fire Code. It is intended that this standard be used as a guide before the kindling of any open burning or recreational fires, and to establish reasonable fire and life safety measures.

I. Definitions

Open Burning. The burning of materials wherein products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber.

Bonfire. An outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes.

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

II. Permits

- A. A Ross Valley Fire Department permit is required prior to the kindling of a fire. A site plan and permit application shall be submitted to the Fire Prevention Division with the application fee for processing. Applications may be obtained by contacting the Fire Prevention Division at 415-258-4686.
- B. Where burning is conducted on public property or the property of someone other than the permit applicant, the permit applicant shall demonstrate in the form of a letter with signature that permission has been obtained by the appropriate government agency, the owner, or the owner authorized agent.

III. Authorization

1. Permit shall be approved by the Fire Marshal prior to use.
2. Open burning shall only be permitted with prior approval by the Bay Air Quality Control District.
3. The Fire Code Official is authorized to order the extinguishment of open burning that creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation.

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IV. Prohibited Open Burning

1. Open burning that is offensive or objectionable because of smoke or odor emissions or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fire hazardous shall be prohibited.

V. Requirements

A. Location

1. Open burning shall not be less than 50 feet from any structure.

Exceptions:

- a. Fires in Fire Marshal approved containers shall not be less than 15 feet from any structure.
2. Bonfires shall not be conducted within 50 feet of a structure or combustible material unless contained in a barbecue pit.
3. Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material.

B. Attendance

1. Open burning, bonfires or recreational fires shall be constantly attended by a person 17 or older until the fire is fully extinguished.

C. Fire Extinguisher

1. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating or other Fire Marshal approved on-site fire-extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand water barrel, garden hose or water truck, shall be available for immediate utilization.

D. Notification

1. Prior to any permissible burning activity starting, the person responsible for the burning activity is required to notify the Ross Valley Fire Department at (415) 258-4686 prior to kindling the fire.