

# Chiminea and Outdoor Fireplace Safety

Chimineas and outdoor fireplaces are very popular in backyards throughout the area. Although their use is allowed under the state fire code, there are restrictions that residents must comply with. Adhering to the requirements and safety tips will assure a safe and enjoyable outdoor experience.

## Fire Code Requirements:

An approved outdoor fire is classified as any fire taking place on a residential property for the sole purpose of providing warmth or recreation and is contained within an approved device.



- Approved devices include: commercially manufactured chimineas, outdoor fireplaces and fire pits, with a total fuel area not exceeding three (3) feet in diameter and two (2) feet in height.
- Only seasoned fire wood, natural gas or propane may be used as fuel for outdoor fires.
- Outdoor fires cannot be located within twenty (20) feet of any property line and within fifteen (15) feet of any combustible structure. Combustible structures include: dwellings, garages, sheds, decks and fences.
- Outdoor fires are prohibited at any R-2 use group (apartments and multi-family dwellings).
- A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher complying with a 4-A rating or other approved on-site fire extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck shall be available for immediate utilization.
- Any outdoor fire not complying with the above is prohibited.

## General Safety Practices:

- Do not use during a high wind condition.
- All wood burning devices must be equipped with either a chimney (flue) or spark screen.
- The fireplace should be located on a non-combustible surface such as a brick or concrete patio.
- Burning leaves, trash or yard debris is not permitted.
- The fire must be attended at all times. If the fire is to be left unattended, it must be extinguished.
- Never use a flammable liquid to start the fire.
- Prior to removing ashes, allow them to cool for at least twenty-four (24) hours. Keep the ashes in a metal waste can with a tight-fitting metal lid and keep it AWAY FROM THE HOUSE.
- Keep your neighbors in mind while burning outdoors. Smoke and other products of combustion can have an impact on surrounding yards and be drawn into neighboring houses.
- If Fire Department is called to respond for smoke or fire that is a nuisance or dangerous the fire will be extinguished and the property will be advised.

